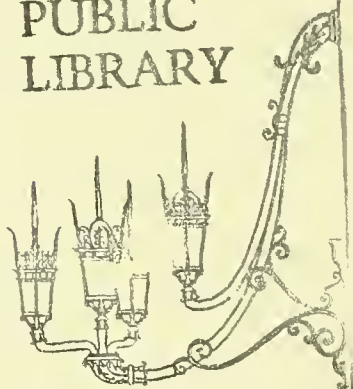


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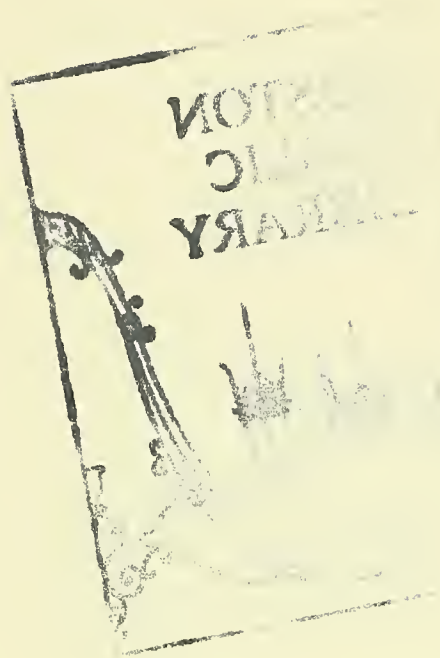


REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

Planning Department
Boston Redevelopment Authority
June, 1973

MASTER COPY

The preparation of this report was financed in part through a Comprehensive Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.



REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

Within the City of Boston there are 36 historic parks and open spaces, which play a significant role in the life of the city, as recreational, historical and economic resources. Despite their importance, however, many of these historic open spaces have not received adequate capital improvements and maintenance funding with the result that they are in dire need of improvement. The purpose of the report is to outline the significance of each historic open space, to recommend improvements for each facility, and to assign priorities for its rehabilitation.

A special effort should be made by the City--with the cooperation of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR), and the National Park Service (NPS)--to upgrade most of these facilities in time for the Boston 200 and National Bicentennial celebrations of 1975-6. This will be necessitated by the fact that these open spaces--both in the downtown historic area as well as in the neighborhoods--will be foci for the neighborhood, state and national celebrations.

In terms of historical significance, the various historic open spaces fall into five distinct categories:

- a. Historic Open Spaces: those parks and open spaces that have significance because they were the site of historic events or associated with the activities of famous or historic persons. Examples of this are Boston Common or the Bunker Hill Battle site.
- b. Historic Landscape Park: A significant example of period (usually 19th century) landscape architecture, or associated with a famous landscape architect. Examples of this are the Public Garden, Arnold Arboretum, or the Olmsted Park System.

c. Sites Associated with Historic Architecture or Surroundings: Examples of this are the proposed Blackstone block and Downtown Waterfront Parks, North Square, or the grounds of the Shirley-Eustis and Blake houses.

d. Commemorative Sites: Open Spaces constructed to commemorate historic persons, places or events. Examples of this are the Paul Revere and John Harvard Malls, or Copp's Hill Terrace (these are often located in historic neighborhoods or surroundings).

e. Historical Burying Grounds: Burying grounds which have special significance because of their extreme age or because they are the grave sites of historic persons. Examples of this are the Granary, Copp's Hill and No. Dorchester Burying Grounds.

Aside from their historical significance, there clearly are other important reasons to preserve and upgrade these historic open spaces. The most significant of these are as follows:

a. Current Use: Most historic open spaces are located in neighborhoods that are among the oldest and not densely populated in the city. Many of them constitute the only available public open spaces in their neighborhoods, and as a result are very heavily used by neighborhood residents. Also, the historic Olmsted Park System forms the backbone of the city's major park system. The challenge facing the city will be to adapt the open spaces to current and projected neighborhood needs, while at the same time preserving and enhancing their historical features and significance.

b. Tourism: A 1972 study of tourism in the City of Boston¹ reported that 71% of those who travelled to Boston for pleasure indicated that they undertook sightseeing of historic sites during the visit.² Although no

1. An Evaluation of Tourism and Prologue 1975 in Boston, Kastarlak Associates, June, 1972

2. Ibid, pg. 30

data exists that determines how many tourists visit these open spaces, it can be safely assumed that at one point or another most tourists do visit these areas. Of the 19 sites on the "Freedom Trail", 7 of these are existing (or in the cases of the Blackstone Block and Navy Yard Parks, proposed) historic open spaces. In addition, an unknown number of tourists visit the floral collections and landscaped areas of the Public Garden and Arnold Arboretum; still others visit the Commonwealth Ave. Mall, Bunker Hill, Castle Island, the Olmsted Park System or Dorchester Heights. The heavy traffic of tourists as well as neighborhood residents has led to the over-use of many of these areas, in light of present capital-improvements and maintenance levels.

c. Bicentennial: It is expected that Boston's historic open spaces will be focal points for the local as well as the state and national Bicentennial celebrations. These activities call for both capital improvements in preparation for 1975-6, as well as special and improved maintenance efforts during these years. Unless such improvements are made, many of the open spaces will reflect poorly on the city and the Bicentennial itself; some will sustain significant damage unless prepared for the extra Bicentennial traffic.

FUNDING

The estimated cost of needed improvements in the city's existing historic parks totals nearly \$10 million. This amount exceeds considerably the amount presently expected to be available for such improvements prior to the 1975-6 Bicentennial celebration. (Approximately \$8,000,000 is expected to be available; none of this, however, will be available for improvements in the Downtown and North End Burying Grounds and historic open spaces other than the Common and Garden). Many of the smaller historic open spaces in the neighborhoods are also not now slated to receive improvements in time for the Bicentennial.

Because of the inadequacy of available local funds - and due to the fact that the City is now at its debt ceiling, with additional new funding not expected in time to permit Bicentennial Improvements - it will be necessary to shift funds to the historic parks from other uncommitted parks and playground projects funded by the City's 1973 parks bond issue if improvements are to be made in many of the historic parks by 1975-6.

As much as possible, this re-allocation should not remove funds from the neighborhoods to which they are presently allocated. This can be accomplished by taking the neighborhood allocations and selectively shifting them from playgrounds to the Historic open spaces in each neighborhood. To some extent, however, funds will have to be re-allocated to the downtown and North End historic parks and burying grounds, in that these facilities and districts are not presently programmed to receive sufficient funding.

It should also be noted that the estimates included in this report for needed improvements in the historic open spaces are conservative, and include only the improvements needed to make the facilities attractive and able to withstand the extra wear that will come with the Bicentennial. Particularly in the case of the major open spaces - e.g. the Common and Garden and elements of the Olmsted Park System - major utility, drainage, and reconstruction activities are needed, but not included in these estimates, because of the current tight budgetary situation.

For this reason, if new bonding authority is permitted, or if increased amounts of private, state or Federal funding for parks or historic preservation becomes available, a significant part of this money should go towards the completion of the major rehabilitation activities that will not be completed under the program proposed here.

Upon completion of the Bicentennial-related projects, improvements in the historic open spaces should be completed as is necessary, as a part of the city's on-going parks capital improvements program. In particular, stress should be put on the completion of improvements in the Common and Public Garden, and the Olmsted Park System, which have not received adequate funding in recent years and are in dire need of more than cosmetic improvements.

Historic Parks and Open Spaces

Facility	Proposed Activity	Total Cost(\$)	Federal Share		Local Participation			Fiscal Year
			Amount	Source	Agent	Source	Available (Total Amount)	
Charlestown								
1. Bunker Hill Mon. (MDC)	rehab	1,000,000	500,000	NPS	MDC	MDC	Yes(\$1,000,000)	1974
2. Harvard Mall	rehab, sandblast walls, rehab paving, lighting, tot-lot	200,000	100,000	BOR	COB	BRA	No	1975
3. Winthrop Square	rehab, tree planting	40,000	20,000	BOR	COB	BRA	No	1975
4. Phipps St. Burying Gd.	new iron fence, paths, rehab walls, reset, clean monuments	75,000	37,500	HUD	COB	COB/Priv.	Yes(75,000)	1973
5. Paul Revere Landing	est. new commem. park	Unknown	Corps. of Engineers		MDC	MDC	Yes	1976
6. Navy Yard Park	est. new commem. park	3,200,000	1,600,000	NPS	NPS	NONE	No	1976
Waterfront Blackstone Block-North End								
1. New Park - Blackstone Block	landscape, lighting, furniture, etc.	200,000	100,000	NPS	COB	BRA	Probably	1974
2. Waterfront Park	landscape, lighting, furniture, etc.	1,500,000	750,000	BOR	COB	BRA	Yes(1,500,000)	1974
3. Paul Revere Mall	rehab paving, fountain, lighting	75,000	37,500	BOR	COB	COB	No	1975
4. Copp's Hill B. G.	rehab walks, benches,	90,000	45,000	BOR or NPS	COB	COB	No	1975

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Proposed Activity</u>	<u>Total Cost(\$)</u>	<u>Federal Share</u>		<u>Local Participation</u>		
			<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Agent</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Available (Total Amount)</u> <u>Fiscal Year</u>
5. Copp's Hill Ter.	repair shelter, tot-lot,	50,000	25,000	HUD	COB	COB	Yes(50,000) 1973
6. North Square	repair plaza, rehab square	75,000	37,000	BOR	COB	PRIVATE	No 1975
7. Faneuil Hall Market Plaza (North and South Market Streets)	restore pedestrian area						
<u>Central</u>							
1. Boston Common	rehabilitate (fencing, walks, etc.)	1,500,000	750,000	NPS-BOR	COB	COB	Yes(600,000) 1975
2. Public Garden	rehabilitate (fencing, walks, etc.)	1,500,000	750,000	NPS-BOR	COB	COB	Yes(800,000) 1975
3. Granary B.G.	rehabilitate	150,000	75,000	BOR(NPS?)	COB	COB	No 1975
4. King's Chapel B.G.	rehabilitate	75,000	37,500	BOR or NPS	COB	COB	No 1975
5. Crispus Attucks Sq.	construct new park	Undetermined		BOR	BRA	BRA	Yes 1975
6. Tea Park Park	construct new park	Undetermined		BOR	BRA	BRA	No 1975
7. Liberty Tree Park	construct new park	Undetermined			BRA	BRA	Yes 1974
8. Winthrop Square	construct new park			NONE	BRA	PRIVATE	Yes 1974
<u>Back Bay</u>							
1. Comm. Ave. Mall	irrigation, rehab	120,000	60,000	BOR	COB	COB	Yes(100,000) 1974
2. Copley Sq.	tree planting, delayed maint.	50,000	25,000	BOR	COB	COB	Yes(50,000) 1974

Facility	Proposed Activity	Total Cost(\$)	Federal Share		Local Participation		Fiscal Year	
			Amount	Source	Agent	Source		Available (Total Amount)
South End								
1. So. End Squares (Worcester, Chester, Union Park, Concord, Rutland, Blackstone, Franklin)	rehabilitation	585,000	282,500	NPS	BRA	BRA	No	1976
Olmsted Park System								
1. Back Bay Fens (incl.Evans Way)	rehabilitation	400,000	200,000	NPS	COB	COB	Yes(100,000)	1975
2. Riverway	rehabilitation	300,000	150,000	NPS	COB	COB	Yes(Bike Trail)	1975
3. Olmsted Park	rehabilitation	400,000	200,000	NPS	COB	COB	Yes(145,000)	1975
4. Arboretum	routine and delayed maintenance	Unknown	Unknown	NPS	PRIV.	PRIV.	Yes	1975
5. Franklin Park	rehabilitation	1,000,000	500,000	NPS	COB	COB	Yes(600,000)	1975
Jamaica Plain								
Roxbury								
1. Highland Park	rehab park, monument	250,000	125,000	NPS	COB	COB	Yes(50,000)	1975
2. Elliot Square	rehabilitate	30,000	15,000	BOR	BRA	BRA	No	1976
3. Kittredge Sq.	paving, benches, light, landscape	50,000	25,000	BOR	BRA	BRA	Yes	1976

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Proposed Activity</u>	<u>Total Cost (\$)</u>	<u>Federal Share</u>		<u>Local Participation</u>		
			<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Agent</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Available (Total Amount)</u> <u>Fiscal Year</u>
4. Eustis B.G.	landscaping, walks, etc.	25,000	12,500	NPS	COB	COB	No 1976
5. Shirley-Eustis Hse. Grounds	landscaping, walks, etc.	25,000	12,500	HUD	COB	COB	Yes (25,000) 1974
<u>So. Boston</u>							
1. Thomas Park (Dorch. Hse.)	rehabilitate	200,000	100,000	NPS	COB	COB	Poss. 1975
2. Castle Island (MDC)	rehabilitate	1,000,000	500,000	NPS	MDC	MDC	Yes (1,000,000) 1975
<u>Dorchester</u>							
1. Richardson Park	fencing, walks, rehab, etc.	125,000	62,500	BOR	COB	COB	No 1975
2. Dorchester No. B.G.	paths, benches, rehab	50,000	25,000	NPS	COB	COB	No 1976
3. Dorchester So. B.G.	paths, benches, rehab	20,000	10,000	NPS	COB	COB	No 1976
4. Dorchester Common (Donovan Park)	paths, benches, rehab	25,000	12,500	BOR	COB	COB	No 1975
<u>Miscellaneous</u>							
Fort Warren (MDC)	rehabilitation	1,400,000	750,000	NPS	MDC	MDC	Yes (1,400,000) 1975
<u>TOTAL: ALL IMPROVEMENTS IN EXISTING OPEN SPACES</u>			4,930,000				7,795,000

RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS: PRIORITY LISTING

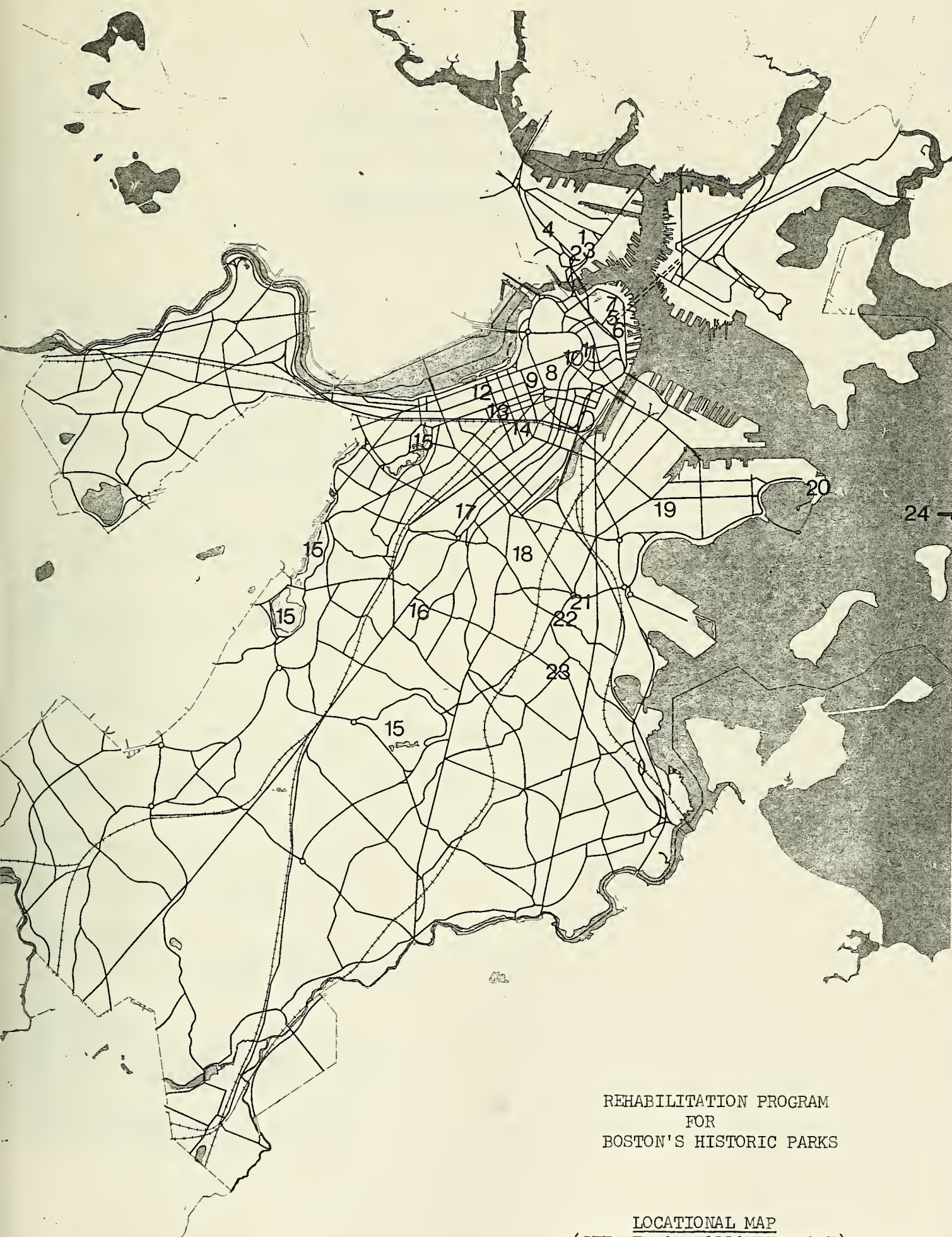
SITE	SIGNIFICANCE	<u>EXISTING OR POT. TOURIST</u>		REL. TO OTHER PRES. OR NEIGHBORHOOD IMP- ROVEMENT ACTIVITIES	PRIORITY
		INTEREST	IMPACT		
Bunker Hill Mon.(MDC)	3	3	3	2	1
Harvard Mall	2	2	2	3	2
Winthrop Square	2	2	2	3	2
Phipps St. Burying Gd.	2	2	2	3	3
Paul Revere Landing	2	3	3	1	2
Blackstone Block Pk.	2	3	3	2	2
Waterfront Park	3	3	3	3	1
Paul Revere Mall	2	3	3	1	2
Copp's Hill Terr.	2	2	2	1	3
Copp's Hill Bur. Gd.	3	3	3	2	1
North Square	3	3	3	1	2
Faneuil Hall Markets	3	3	3	2	1
Boston Common	3	3	3	2	1
Public Garden	3	3	3	2	1
Granary Bur. Gd.	3	3	3	2	1
King's Chapel Bur. Gd.	3	3	3	2	1
Crispus Attucks Sq.	3	3	3	1	2
Tea Party Park	2	3	3	2	2
Liberty Tree Pk.	2	2	2	2	3
Comm. Ave Mall	2	2	2	2	3
Copley Square	2	2	2	2	3
South End Squares	3	2	1	3	2
Back Bay Fens	3	2	2	2	2
Riverway	3	2	2	2	2
Olmsted Park	3	2	2	2	2
Arboretum	3	3	3	1	1
Franklin Park	3	3	3	3	1
Highland Park	3	2	1	3	2
Eustis Burying Gd.	2	1	1	2	3
Shirley-Eustis Hse.	2	1	1	2	3
Dorchester Heights (Thomas Park)	3	3	3	3	1
Castle Island	2	2	2	1	3
Richardson Park	2	1	1	3	3
Dorchester Common (Donovan Park)	3	1	1	3	3
Fort Warren (George's Island)	2	2	2	1	3

NOTES: Priority for each criterion is rated on a 1-3 basis, with 1 representing little or no significance, 2 representing a moderate amount of significance, and 3 representing a great degree of significance. Totals were computed for each site (aggregating points for the four criteria) and relative priority assigned. Priority 1 represents immediate priority; 2 represents secondary priority; and 3 represents low priority.

PROPOSED NEW FACILITIES ON HISTORIC SITES

A number of new facilities have been proposed to be located on historic sites. These are in a variety of stages of planning, and are described briefly below:

1. Paul Revere Landing (Charlestown) - Located on the legendary site of Paul Revere's landing in Charlestown for his ride to Lexington and Concord. This site is located on the site of the new Charles River Dam, and will be constructed by the MDC and the Corp of Engineers as an ornamental park; expected to be completed by 1976.
2. Blackstone Block Park (Downtown) - Located in the interior of this historic block. Presently used for parking and other commercial uses, it is proposed that an urban park be created on this site; to be completed by 1976.
3. Waterfront Park (Waterfront) - This is a proposed multi-acre park to be located on the downtown waterfront, adjacent to historic Long Wharf. This park will contain hard-surfaced and lawn areas, as well as a neighborhood-oriented play area, and possibly an orientation center for the Harbor Islands Ferry. To be completed by 1975.
4. Crispus Attucks Square (Downtown) - This park is to be constructed adjacent to the site of the Boston Massacre, immediately south of the Old State House. Expected completion by 1975.
5. Tea Party Park (Downtown) - This park is to be constructed on a site near South Station close to the site of the Boston Tea Party. During the Bicentennial, this will be the site for the brig "Beaver", a reconstruction of one of the ships involved in the original tea party. Expected completion by 1975.
5. Liberty Tree Park (Downtown) - This will be a new plaza located on the site of Boston's Liberty Tree. To be located at the corner of Washington and Boylston Streets. Expected completion by 1975.
6. Faneuil Hall Markets (Downtown) - North and South Market Streets and Dock Square in the vicinity of Faneuil Hall and the Quincy Markets are to be converted into attractive pedestrian areas, using largely private funding. Expected completion date: 1976.



REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

LOCATIONAL MAP
(SEE KEY ON FOLLOWING PAGE)
1"=6400'

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

LOCATIONAL MAP KEY
(See Map on Previous Page)

Charlestown

1. Bunker Hill Monument
2. John Harvard Mall
3. Winthrop Square
4. Phipps St. Burying-Ground

Central-Waterfront-North End

5. Paul Revere Mall
6. North Square-Rachel Revere Square
7. Copp's Hill Terrace-Copp's Hill Burying Ground
8. Boston Common
9. Public Garden
10. Old Granary Burying Ground
11. King's Chapel Burying Ground

Back Bay

12. Commonwealth Avenue Mall
13. Copley Square

South End

14. South End Squares
(Worcester, Chester, Union Park, Concord, Rutland, Blackstone, Franklin)

Olmsted Park System

15. Back Bay Fens, Riverway, Olmsted Park, Arborway, Arboretum, Franklin Park.

Roxbury

16. Highland Park
17. Eustis (Eliot) Burying Ground
18. Shirley-Eustis House

South Boston

19. Thomas Park (Dorchester Heights)
20. Castle Island (Fort Independence)

Dorchester

21. Richardson Park
22. Dorchester North Burying Ground
23. Dorchester Square (Donovan Park)

Harbor Islands

24. Fort Warren (Georges Island)

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF
INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC PARKS
(By District)

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

Location: Monument Square, Charlestown

Description: 3.7 acre grassy hilltop, with large granite obelisk at center.

Historical Significance: The Bunker Hill Monument and its surrounding park are located on Breed's Hill, which was the site of the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, in which American Patriots repelled repeated waves of British Regular troops. This constituted the first significant victory in the Revolution for American troops in a fixed battle situation. The land remained vacant until the Bunker Hill Monument Association purchased the land around the site of the Revolutionary War fortification on Breed's Hill to build a monument commemorating The Battle of Bunker Hill. In 1825, the cornerstone was laid for the monument, a granite obelisk, designed by architect, Solomon Willard. Financial difficulties delayed construction, however until 1843. The transporting of large blocks of granite for the obelisk from the Quincy Quarry led to the development of the first railway in the United States. In 1826, Gridley Bryant, engineer and owner of the Quincy Quarry opened a horse drawn railway to carry stone from the quarry to the Neponset River. The blocks were then carried by barge to the wharves in Charlestown and dragged up the hills by teams of oxen.

The proposed development around the Monument was a symmetrical square of row houses laid out so views emphasized the Monument. Since building progressed slowly the row houses facing the Square were erected in a variety of styles reflecting different styles of the Victorian era. Still, adjoining walls and regular height lines accentuate the formal organization of the Square.

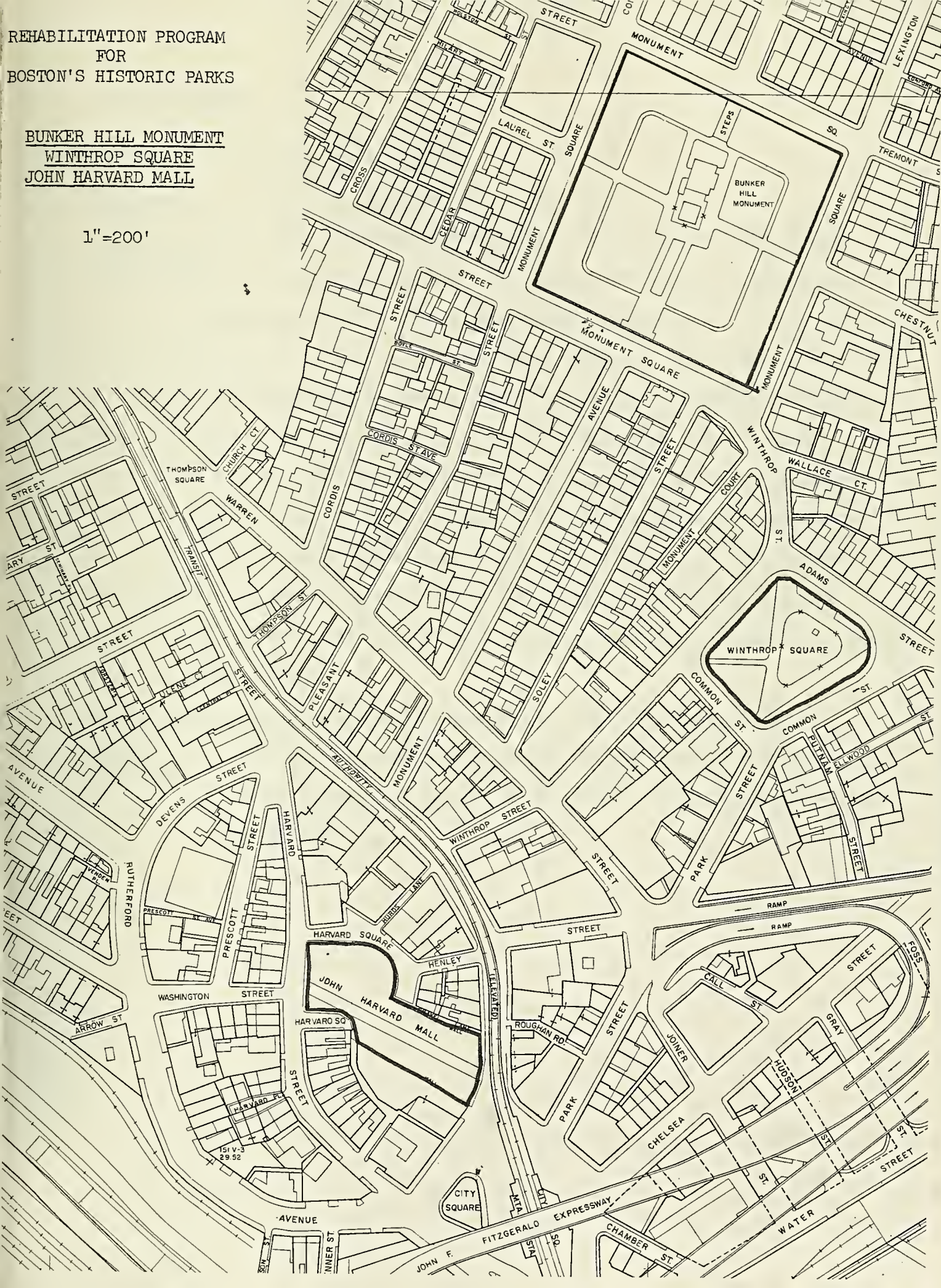
Present Use: The Monument and surrounding park experience heavy use by both tourists and local residents. Chief uses are walking, sitting, picnicking and sightseeing.

Proposed Improvements: (To be determined by MDC)

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT
WINTHROP SQUARE
JOHN HARVARD MALL

1"=200'



JOHN HARVARD MALL

Location: City Square, Charlestown

Description: .85 acre; brick paved mall, with trees

Historical Significance: The site of the John Harvard Mall, located on Main Street near City Square, was part of the initial settlement in Charlestown.

In 1641, an engineer, Thos. Graves was commissioned by the Mass. Co. to plan streets for the small colony. The main focus of the colony was at City Square, near the active waterfront while residential settlement spread over the entire Town Hill area. On the crest of Town Hill a small fort existed which by 1716 was so deteriorated that the site was cleared for a meeting house by the First Congregational Church. By 1819 the meeting house was demolished to erect a new church for the religious group which was surrounded by a semi-circular court. During the 1940's the church and adjacent structures on Main Street and City Square were torn down to form John Harvard Mall, a commemorative park to honor Charlestown's most illustrious citizen.

Present Use: Used by neighborhood residents as play and sitting area.

Proposed Improvements: Sandblast and repair brick walls, renovate fencing on upper terrace, tree work, repair brick pavement, rehabilitate play area on upper terrace.

Winthrop Square

Location: Winthrop St. and Common St., Charlestown

Description: .88 acre common with mature planting, walks, benches, and memorial tablets and monument dedicated to the patriots who died at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Historical Significance: Originally a common field for the 17th Century Charlestown community, the Square developed into a "Training Square" for the Charlestown militia during the Revolutionary War. The square is located in the line of attack taken by the British during the Battle of Bunker Hill. The monument and tablets commemorate those who died in the patriot cause during the Battle.

Present Use: The square is currently used as a sitting and informal play area by Charlestown Residents. Tourists also stop here on their way to the Bunker Hill Monument.

Proposed Improvements: The square is in a state of severe neglect. Extensive rehabilitation of existing elements (i.e. reconstruction of lawn areas, benches walks, etc.), sandblasting of the monument, and tree planting are required.

Phipps St. Burying Ground

Location: Phipps St., Charlestown

Description: 1.76 acre burying ground with small grassy knoll rising above the surround vacant level area (this surrounding area soon to be incorporated into a new housing development).

Historical Significance: The Phipps St. Burying Ground is one of the oldest historic burying grounds within the city, and dates back to the 17th Century. Buried here is John Harvard, whose grave is marked by a large monument.

Present Use: The burying ground is presently little used, except as a pilgrimage destination for Harvard devotees. This use is expected to increase during the Bicentennial and afterward, as the nearby housing development and Community College are completed.

Proposed Improvements: Installation of new iron perimeter fencing, stabilize and repair brick retaining walls and tombs, install new path-way system and knee rails, clean and repair monuments, install pedestrian lighting, install paved viewing area around Harvard Monument.

Paul Revere Mall

Location: Hanover Street, North End
0.83 Acres

Description: Paul Revere Mall is a small park situated behind the Christ Church, now called the Old North Church. Constructed as a commemorative park in 1925, the area is part of the Freedom Trail giving access to the Old North Church. An equestrian statue of Paul Revere stands at the entrance of the Mall on Hanover Street.

The significant views from the Mall are the Spire of the Old North Church to the north and the striking facade of St. Stephen's Church on Hanover Street to the south.

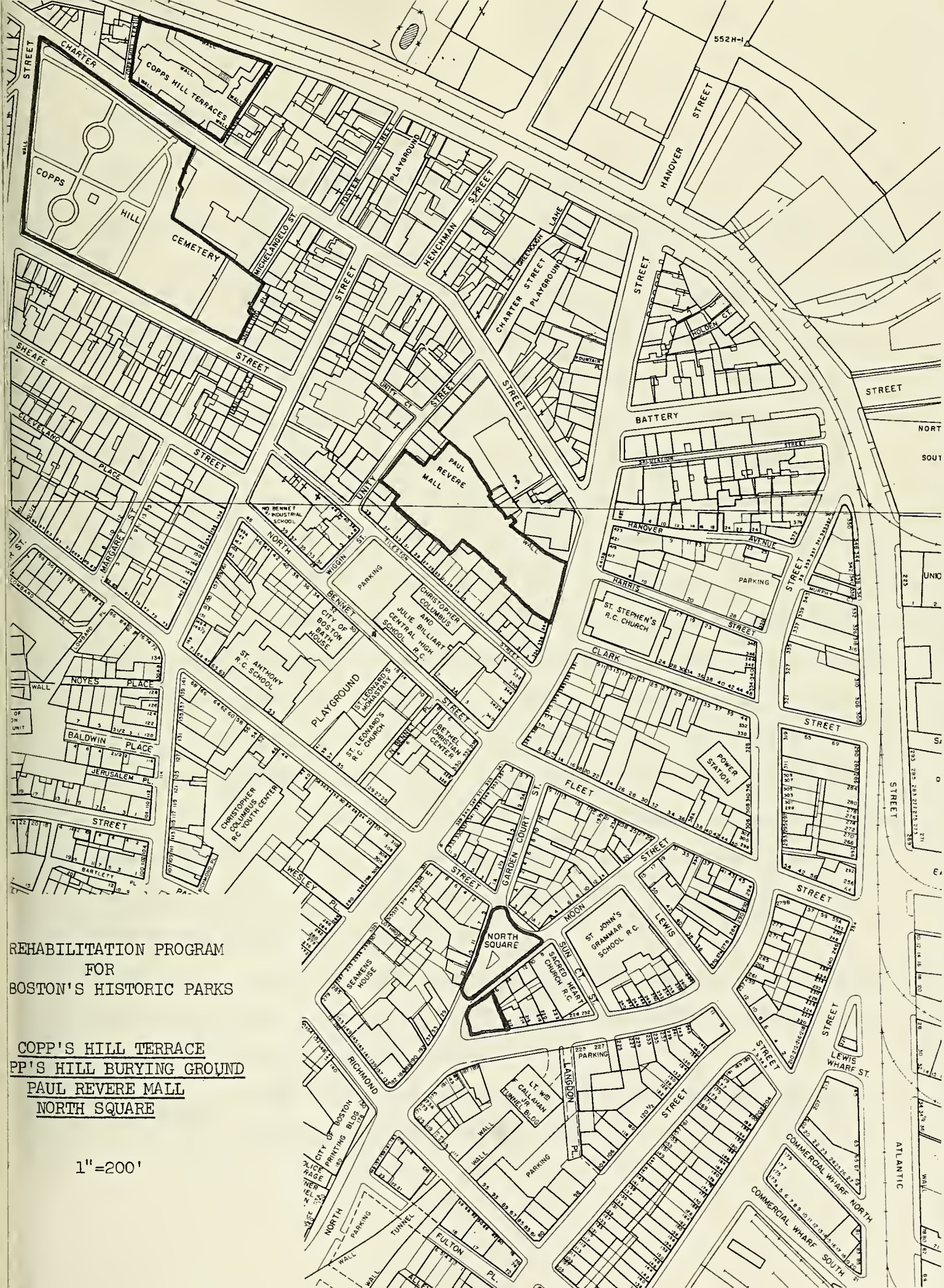
Historical Significance: Paul Revere Mall visually and physically connects two historic churches: Christ Church, now called the Old North Church, and St. Stephen's Church located at 193 Salem Street is the oldest church in Boston. It was built for Anglican worship by Wollard Price in 1723 from designs based on Sir Christopher Wren's London churches. A national landmark, it was immortalized by Longfellow's reference to signal lanterns hung in its tavern on the night of April 18, 1775. The first steeple was blown down in 1804 and replaced by a similar one designed by architect, Charles Bulfinch. The current steeple is an exact replica of the Bulfinch Steeple, which fell in a storm in 1955.

St. Stephen's church, located on Hanover Street between Harris and Clark Streets, was designed by Charles Bulfinch in 1804 for members of the new North Congregational Society. Paul Revere and his father were members, and Paul Revere himself cast the bell for the church/ Bulfinch's design was actually an extensive restoration of a previous church built on the same site in 1714. This church, the only Bulfinch designed in Boston, was completely restored in 1965 by Cardinal Richard Cushing.

Current Use: Paul Revere Mall is part of the Freedom Trail and thus is used daily by tourists walking to the Old North Church. It is also used as a major open space by residents of the North End: children from the adjoining school use it as a playground; also old men use it for playing cards; and mother and babies use it as a sitting area.

Proposed

Improvements: Repair and replace paving where needed, add additional pedestrian lighting, and replace existing fixtures with more attractive standards, repair fountain, replace or repair freestanding granite benches; replace seven trees, install tree grates, repair-replace iron chains at entrances.



REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

- COPP'S HILL TERRACE
- PP'S HILL BURYING GROUND
- PAUL REVERE MALL
- NORTH SQUARE

1"=200'

NORTH SQUARE

Location: North Street, at Moon St., North End

Description: Consists of two small areas: Rachel Revere Square, a small brick wall enclosed plaza and North Square, actually a part of the cobbled street with planters and enclosed with a heavy-guage anchor chain.

Historical Significance: North Square is a small triangular opening in the North End of the old town that in colonial days was only a block away from the waterfront. On the westerly border of North Square is one of the most popular points of tourist interest, the Paul Revere House. This colonial domicile is flanked on one side by the Moses Pierce-Hitchborn House. Side by side, these structures give an unusual opportunity to view two different types of dwellings of a similar period. The simple clapboard wooden structure of the Revere House, restored in 1908, accentuates the sophistication of the brick Hitchborn House. Whereas the Revere house is less interesting and important for its architectural than its historical value, the reverse is true for the Hitchborn House. The Hitchborns, although not national patriot figures, were allied to the Reveres not only through marriage and upbringing but through participation in the Revolution.

On the other side, nearby to the Revere House is the Mariners House. Built in 1847 by the Boston Port Society, it was a home for seafaring men set in the heart of the City's maritime quarter, North Square. Rachel Revere Square is a small 20th century commemorative park.

Present Use: Both areas, Rachel Revere Sq. and North Sq., are currently heavily used by both residents and tourists for both passive activities (sitting, sight-seeing, etc.) and active children's play.

Proposed Improvements: North Square - tree planting, new brick paving, new concrete planters, tables and benches, kiosk.

Copp's Hill Terrace

Location: Between Charter Street and Commercial Street, North End
0.60 Acres

Copp's Hill Burying Ground

Location: Hull and Snowhill Streets, North End
3 Acres

Description: Copp's Hill Terrace, located immediately north of Copp's Hill Burying Ground, is rimmed by an impressive wall of granite blocks, terminating in steps on either side. From the terrace there are outstanding views of the Boston Harbor, U.S.S. Constitution, and the Bunker Hill Monument. An arcaded shelter is situated at the westerly border of the terrace.

Use: The park and burial ground are used by tourists and residents for strolling and sitting. Although there is no play equipment, children do play in the terraced area.

Copp's Hill Burying Ground, located across Charter Street, is the largest of all historic burial grounds in the City of Boston. In close proximity to the Christ Church, "Old North Church," it was originally called the North Burying Place. Large trees and well-maintained grass areas provide an attractive setting for the graves of many illustrious Bostonians. A concrete structure used for maintenance equipment defaces the center of the Burial Ground.

Historical

Significance: Copp's Hill Burying Ground and Copp's Hill Terrace are surviving elements of Copp's Hill, one of the original dominant hills of Boston. Early settlers of the North End used the area for promenade and recreation until the summit of the hill was levelled in 1807, leaving only the burial ground untouched. The burial ground was the second burial place established in Boston, 1659, and bears resemblance to its antecedent, King's Chapel Burial Ground, in the layout

of walks and arrangement of the stones. During Revolutionary times, the British soldiers occupied the hill as a military station and fired on Charlestown. For recreation, the British troops shot bullets at the gravestones; the marks from this sport are still visible on some of the stones. Originally, the northeasterly part of the yard was used for the burial of the townspeople, while the Snowhill Street portion of slaves and freed-people. The Hall Street side contains the most ancient tombs. In 1878, the superintendant of the burial grounds recovered 22 tombstones which had been utilized for various purposes: two were found on chimney tops; two were covering drains; one was found in the cellar of a house on Charter Street.

Copp's Hill Terrace was originally part of a larger park which extended to the wharves on the other side of Commercial Street. The park was built during the first quarter of the 19th century by a prominent Boston merchant, William Gray. The Honorable William Gray, as he was then known, was elected lieutenant-governor with Eldridge Gerry in 1810 and was reputedly responsible for the re-launching of the U.S.S. Constitution in 1812. The entire park area was divided in 1893 by the widening of Commercial Street. Shortly after the division, circa 1896, the granite terraced area was constructed.

Present Use: The Copp's Hill Terrace is currently used by neighborhood residents and tourists as a promenade and overlook. The area is also actively used by neighborhood children as a court for informal ball games. The stairways provide access from the North End for residents to the North End Park, and for Freedom Trail tourists to Charlestown and the Navy Yard.

The burying ground is used by both residents and tourists for walking, sitting and quiet contemplation.

Proposed

Improvements: A major rehabilitation of the Terrace is planned for this year including reconstruction of the shelter, paving, play facilities, etc. The burying ground requires paving, benches, seeding, grading, tree planting, and tree work, repair of the iron fence, and restoration work on some monuments.

Old Granary Burial Ground

Location: Tremont Street opposite Bromfield Street

Description: The Old Granary Burial Ground, a crescent shaped area enclosed by buildings and an ornate iron fence. The public entrance is defined by granite gates rendered in an Egyptian Revival fashion by architect Solomon Willard, 1840. Winding paths and linden and oak trees enhance the burial ground enclosure; the Park Street Church at the northern boundary is a visual anchor for the entire site.

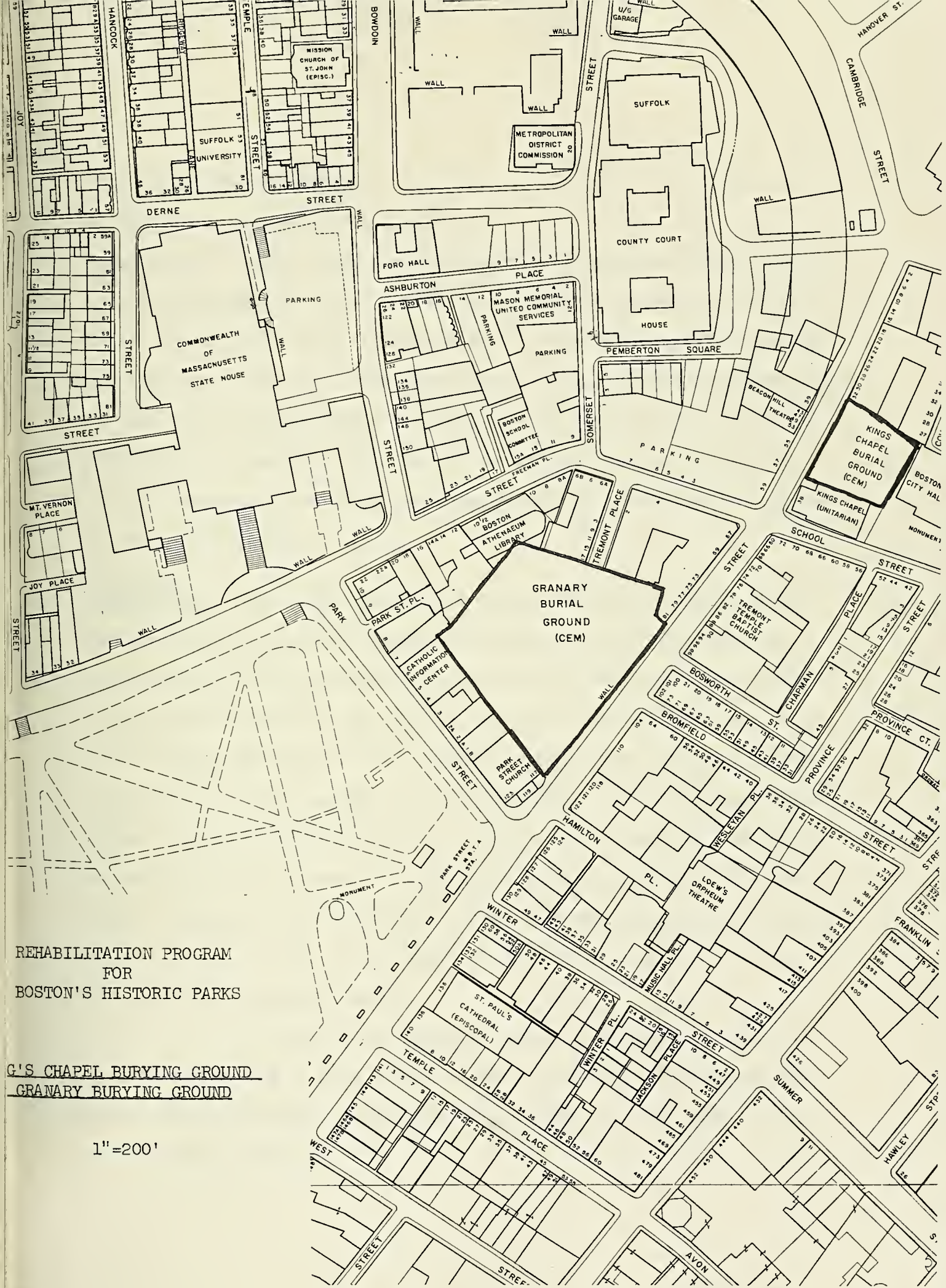
Historical

Significance: The Old Granary Burial Ground was established in 1660, and was first called the "South Burying Ground." The subsequent name of "Granary" was from the town granary, which stood within its enclosure where the Park Street Church now stands. This cemetery is said to contain the remains of more distinguished Bostonians than any other burial ground in the city. Eminent Bostonians who are buried here are: Peter Faneuil, Uriah Cotting, Robert Treat Paine, and the victims of the Boston Massacre. In addition the graves of seven governors from the colonial settlement are also located here. The most conspicuous monument and most commanding visual feature within the enclosure is the granite obelisk over the Franklin tomb. The granite was taken from the same quarry used for the Bunker Hill Monument. The obelisk, raised in 1827, is 21' high and bears a bronze tablet with an inscription composed by Benjamin Franklin. John Hancock and Paul Revere are also buried in the Granary.

Present Use: The Granary is currently heavily used by both tourists and office workers as a setting for such passive activities as walking, sitting, viewing historic markers, etc.

Proposed

Improvements: Repair iron fencing, knee rails, walks; regrade, fertilize and sod lawn areas; prune, root feed and aerate soil around mature trees; provide viewing areas for large groups in vicinity of Hancock, Franklin, and Revere tombs.



King's Chapel Burying Ground

Location: Tremont Street, Boston

Description: King's Chapel Burying Ground, is located off Tremont Street one block from both City Hall and Park Street and is surrounded by King's Chapel, Old City Hall and One Beacon Street. These buildings form with the open area one of Boston's finest urban spaces. Its predominant characteristics are (1) a fine entrance gateway and ornamental ironwork fencing, (2) linear organization of tombstones which follow the natural slope of the land, and (3) five towering and magnificent Little-leaf Linden trees which are approximately 125-150 years old.

Historical

Significance: King's Chapel Burying Ground, the oldest in Boston, dates from the earliest days of the colonial settlement, 1631. Originally the land bordered by School, Tremont, Court and Washington Street belonged to Isaac Johnson, husband of Lady Arbella, daughter of the Earl of Lincoln. (The ship which brought the first Puritans to Boston was named the Arbella in honor of this lady, who was one of the passengers.) Her husband, Isaac Johnson, one of the first of the small company to die requested burial in the upper part of his garden, near the present corner of School and Tremont streets. Being an eminent gentlemen, others soon requested burial alongside "Brother Johnson," which for the first 30 years of the colony was the only repository for the dead in Boston.

In 1686 Governor Andros arbitrarily appropriated a corner of the burial ground to build a small wooden chapel. In 1749, the present King's Chapel, designed by Peter Harrison, was erected on the site of the previous wooden structure.

The cemetery contains the graves of Governor John Winthrop, Governor Shirley, the wife of Governor Andros, John Cotton, as well as numerous other colonialists. During the first half of the 19th century an enterprising superintendant of burials relocated some of the gravestones in order "to beautify" the grounds. In placing the stones in rows along the avenues and bypaths the precise location of some of the oldest graves was lost. Burials ceased in this yard in 1796.

Present Use: The use of this Burying Ground is similar to that of the Granary. Tourists and office workers use this area for sightseeing, walking, sitting, informal picnicking, etc.

Proposed Improvements: Repair iron fencing, knee rails, walks, etc. Regrade, fertilize, loam, and sod lawn areas; prune and feed trees; rehabilitate monuments, improve drainage at lower walk.

BOSTON COMMON AND PUBLIC GARDEN

Location: Bounded by Tremont, Park, Beacon, Arlington and Boylston Streets in downtown Boston.

Description: The Common is a 50 acre area of lawns, plazas and malls containing a small cement pond, a playing field, a number of monuments, etc. The Public Garden is a 24 acre botanical garden containing a free-form pond, flower beds, walks and statuary.

Historic Significance: Boston Common and Public Garden are significant in terms of conservation, landscape architecture, military and political history, and sculpture. Notable is the fact that this significance extends over more than three centuries. From the 17th century comes the establishment of the Common (1634); from the 18th century, the establishment of the Central Burying Ground (1756) and the use of the Common as a political rallying point and military training field at the time of the Revolution; from the 19th century, the establishment of the Public Garden (1856) and its predecessor, the Botanic Garden (1839); and from the 20th century, much of the sculpture that embellishes both the Common and the Public Garden.

Boston Common is considered the oldest public park in the country. It was set aside in 1634 as common land for the citizens, as pasturage for cattle, and as a training field for the militia. As early as 1663, John Josselyn, an Englishman, wrote about the men and women of Boston taking their evening strolls on the Common. Children then as now enjoyed wading in Frog Pond in the summer and skating in winter. As time passed and Boston grew, the value of the Common as public open space increased. West of the Common were marshlands, the nearer parts of which were granted by the town to ropemakers in 1794. This ropewalk property was repurchased by the city in 1824 and reserved for public use, although the precise use was not settled upon for some years. In 1839, a group of horticulturalists headed by Horace Gray established the Botanic Garden on this land,

Boston Common and Public Garden - continued

importing an English landscape gardener, John Cadness, to supervise the work of ornamenting the grounds. The Botanic Garden formed the nucleus of the present Public Garden, although it was not until 1856 that the present limits of the Garden were established and all ownership problems settled. Subsequently, the Back Bay to the west was filled in and developed, and the Common and Public Garden became a kind of Central Park for Boston. It is at the Common and Public Garden that the "emerald necklace" of the Olmsted Park System begins.

The Central Burying Ground was established on the Common in 1756. Soldiers who died at the Battle of Bunker Hill and during the British occupation were buried there, as well as peacetime citizens of Boston. The Common proper served as the training field for Boston's military companies, eight of which existed by 1674, as well as for companies from surrounding towns. In 1785, General Amherst and his army of 4500 pitched their tents on the Common en route to Albany and Canada.

Among the important political events that occurred on the Common in the years preceding the Revolution was the celebration of the Repeal of the Stamp Act on May 19, 1766. It was a short-lived celebration, followed by passage of strict revenue acts in 1768. These acts were so strongly objected to in Massachusetts that British troops had to be stationed in Boston; their place of encampment was the Common. The troops were removed after the Boston Massacre of 1770 but returned after the Boston Tea Party of 1773. On April 18, 1775, British troops gathered at the foot of the Common before marching to Lexington.

During the winter of 1775-1776, Boston was held by the British and seiged by the patriots. As part of British defenses, a small earthwork designed for infantry was constructed at the northwest corner of the Common and a small stronghold was established on Fox Hill (located near the present Charles Street and subsequently cut down for fill). The artillery had their intrenchments on

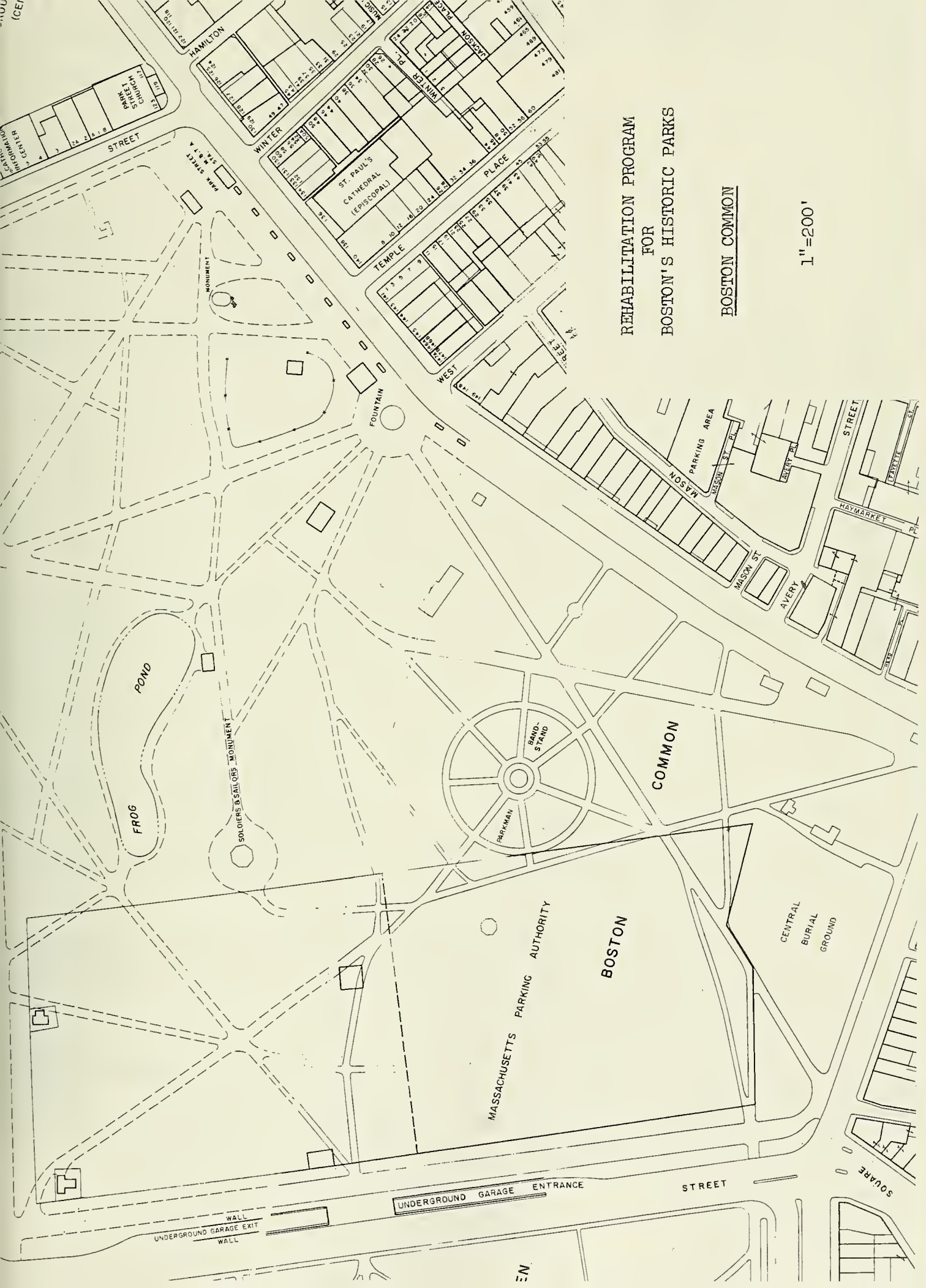
Boston Common and Public Garden - continued

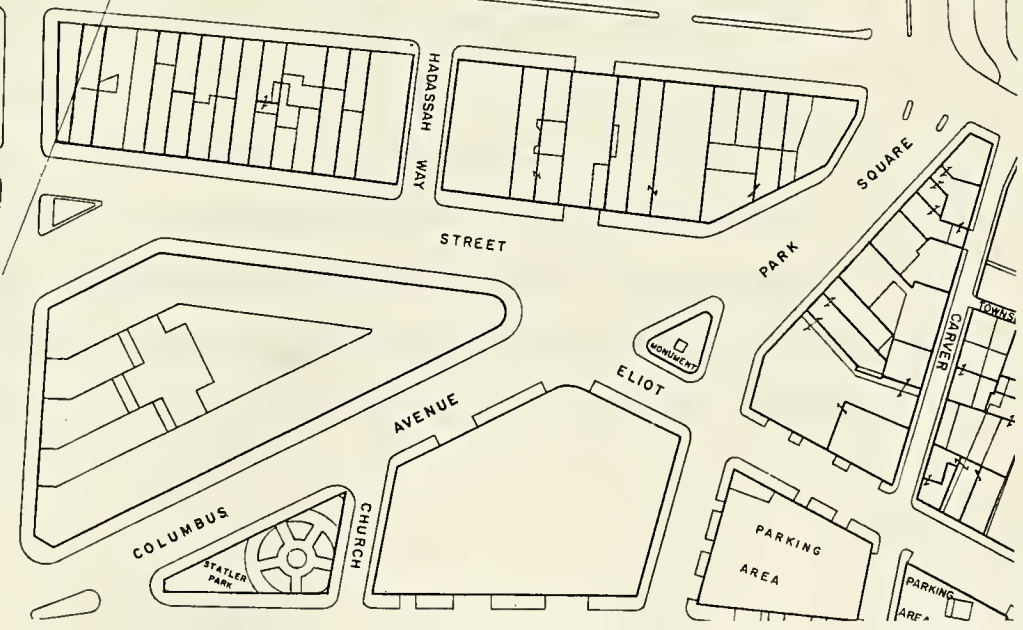
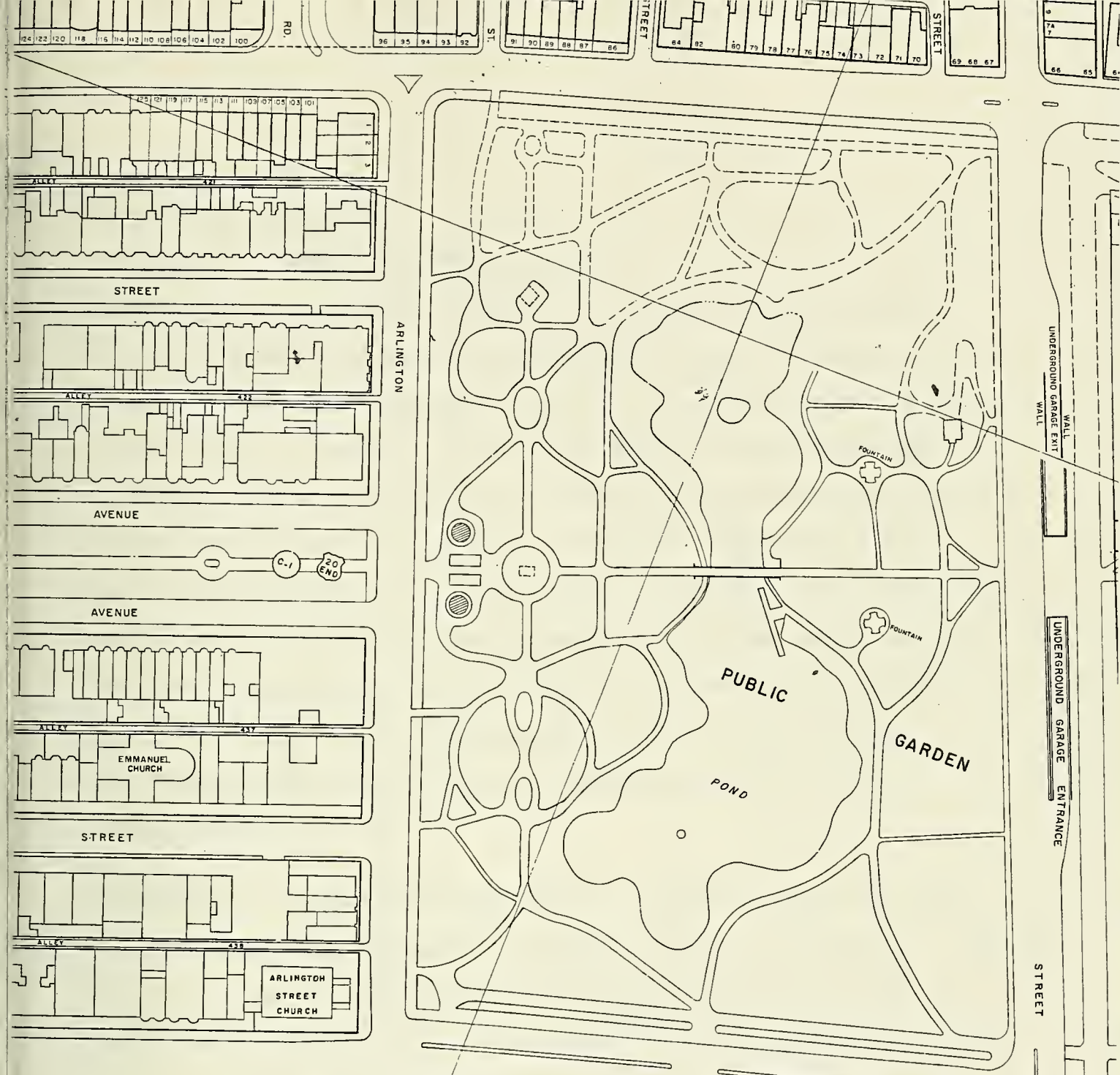
Flagstaff Hill, and behind were three battalions of infantry. A regular garrison of 1700 men remained encamped on the Common to prevent a landing by General Washington and his troops. Eventually, however, the British were forced to evacuate Boston, and the Common thereafter was secure. As the years passed, its original uses continued, with conservation and recreation gradually taking precedence over cattle grazing and military exercise.

Much of the significance of the Common and Public Garden lies in the amount and quality of the sculpture that adorns them. Works by Thomas Ball, Daniel Chester French, Bela Pratt, Augustus St. Gaudens, J.Q.A. Ward, and others make the Common and Garden a veritable museum of monumental sculpture from the 1860's nearly to the present. Finally, the significance of the Common and Garden is secured by the architectural and environmental importance of their surrounds. Beacon Hill, Back Bay, the State House, the Park Street and Arlington Street Churches, St. Paul's Cathedral -- all face the Common or Public Garden and contribute to the quality of this historic environment.

Present Use: Both the Common and Garden are very heavily used by residents (from throughout the City but particularly from Beacon Hill, the Back Bay, the North End, and Chinatown), tourists, shoppers and office workers. Important activities include walking, sightseeing, sitting, informal picnicking, baseball and other games, and riding on the Garden's swan boats.

Proposed Improvements: Both the Common and Garden require major structural improvements such as new walkways, drainage, fencing, tree planting, etc. They also require more routine improvements, including grading, sodding, tree work, etc. Detailed recommendations are included in Carol Johnson's report on The Rehabilitation of Boston Common and the Public Garden.

$1'' = 200'$ 



Commonwealth Avenue Mall

Location: Commonwealth Avenue, Back Bay

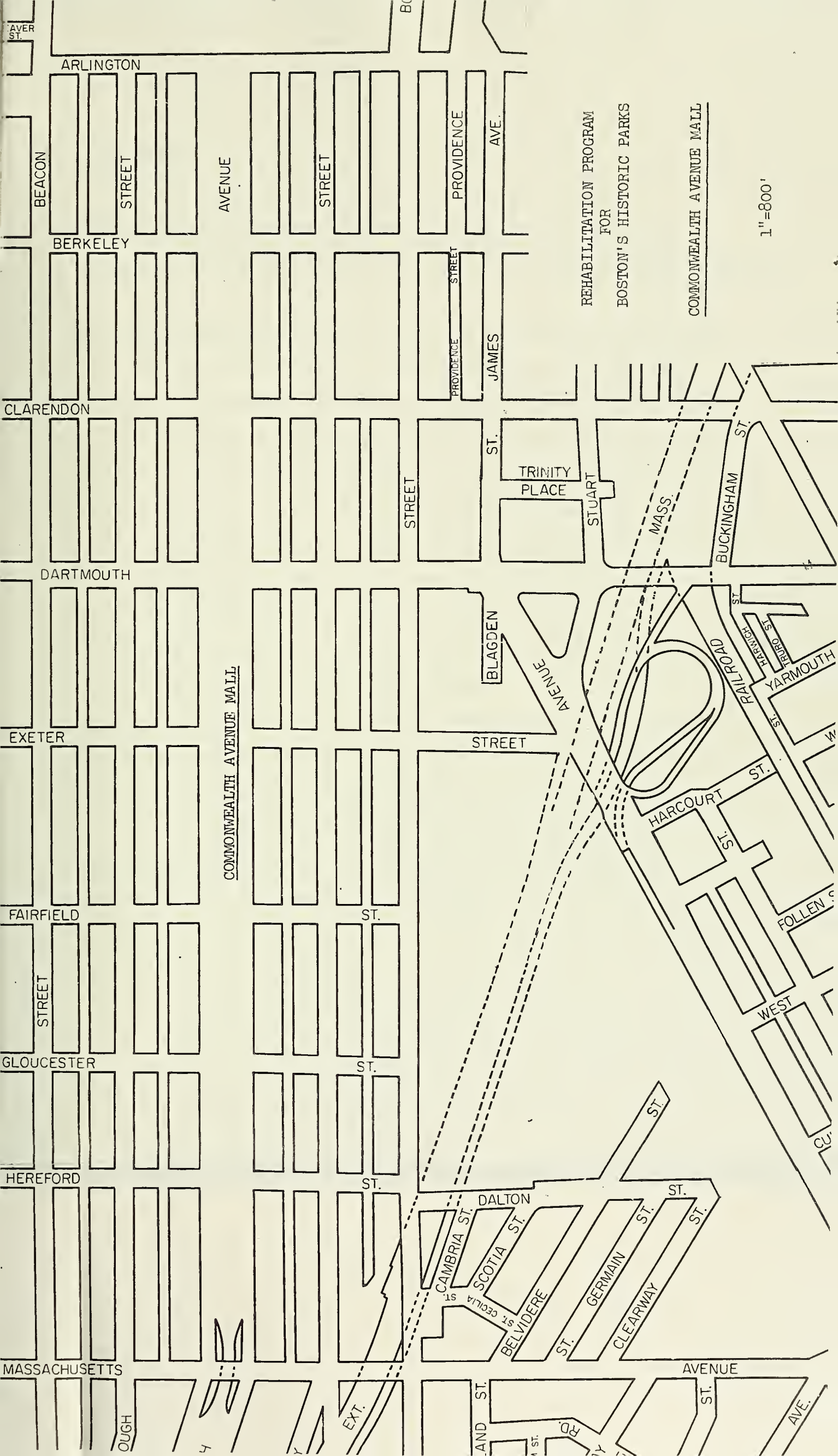
Description: Commonwealth Avenue Mall is a linear park which connects the Public Garden to the east and Charlesgate to the west. Designed in the French manner of a grand boulevard, the mall is lined with two rows of trees. A paved area in the center of the mall provides ample space for walking and bicycling. Statuary is interspersed throughout the paved portion as well as throughout the bordering grassy area. Particularly noteworthy are the buildings on Commonwealth Avenue which depict a compendium of fine Victorian structures. All the buildings have excellent architectural value and three have been selected for the National Register: The Hotel Vendome, designed by William Preston in 1871, the Avenue Mansion, built from designs by Carl Fehmer in 1882, Colonel Albert Burrage House, designed by Charles Brigham in 1899.

Historical

Significance: Commonwealth Avenue Mall is a significant aspect of Arthur Gilman's design for a fashionable residential district of the Back Bay. Gilman's plan for the land fill operation of the Back Bay, which began in 1857, is a reflection of the burgeoning American interest in French architecture and city planning. The Commonwealth Avenue Mall is the dominant axis which links the Public Garden to the eastern boundary and Charlesgate at the western boundary of the Back Bay. These three areas represent the first successful attempt by Americans to realize the monumental effect of open spaces and grand boulevards. In 1884, Commonwealth Avenue Mall became the connecting link between the small downtown parks; the Common and Public Garden, and the large rustic parks comprising the park system designed by Frederick L. Olmsted.

Present Use: The Mall is heavily used by neighborhood residents for walking, sitting, etc. Tourists also walk the Mall for its views of the historic Back Bay area.

Proposed Improvements: Install irrigation systems, ornamental fences along cross streets, tree planting, fertilize, seed, Arlington-Dartmouth Street section of Mall.



MAVER ST.

B

ARLINGTON

BEACON

STREET

AVENUE

STREET

PROVIDENCE

AVE.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL

1"=800'

BERKELEY

CLARENDON

DARTMOUTH

EXETER

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL

STREET

BLAGDEN

AVENUE

TRINITY
PLACE

STUART

MASS.

BUCKINGHAM ST.

RAIL ROAD

YARMOUTH

ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

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ST.

FAIRFIELD

STREET

GLOUCESTER

ST.

ST.

ST.

HEREFORD

MASSACHUSETTS

OUGH

EXT.

DALTON

CAMBRIA ST.

SCOTIA ST.

BELVIDERE

GERMAIN ST.

CLEARWAY

AVENUE

AND ST.

ST.

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COPLEY SQUARE

Location: Dartmouth and Boylston Streets at Huntington Ave., Back Bay

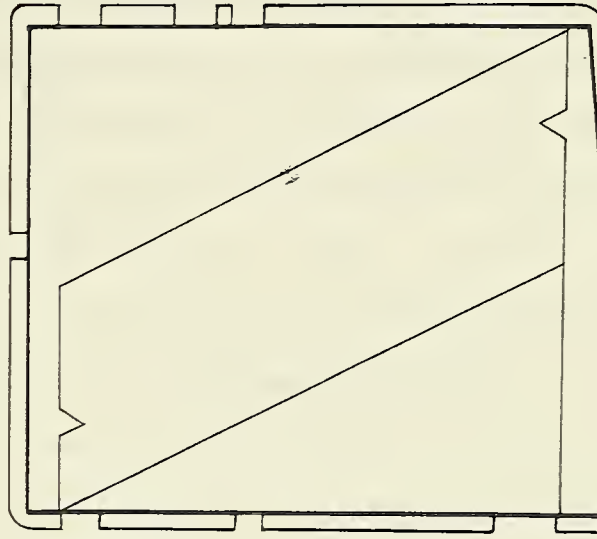
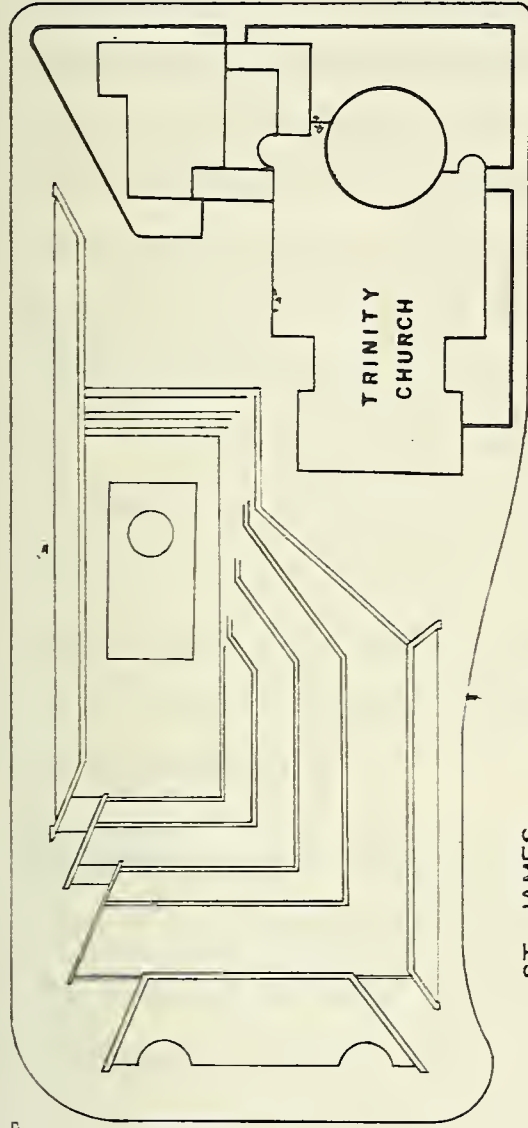
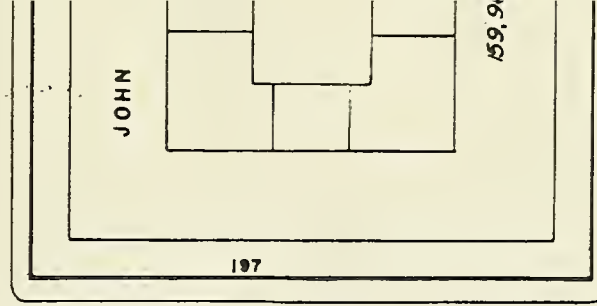
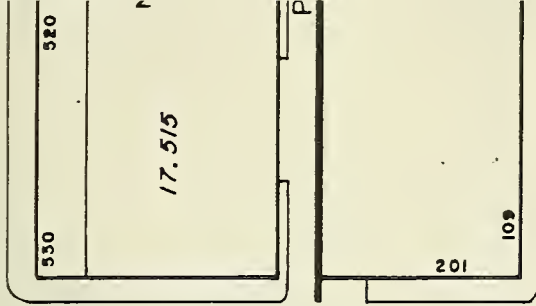
Description: Hard surfaced plaza area, with trees, ornamental fountain, benches, etc.

Historical Significance: Copley Square is the most important public space in the Back Bay District, and one of the most significant in the city.

The square was originally intersected by Huntington Avenue, until, in the late 1960's a new plaza consisting of a series of asymmetrical terraces was constructed. The historical significance of the square is a product not of the plaza itself, but rather, of the architecture surrounding it. The Public Library (McKim, Meade, and White, 1887), Trinity Church (H.H. Richardson, 1877), Old South Church (Cummings and Sears, 1875), and the Copley Plaza Hotel (Henry Hardenburgh, 1912) define the square and define its public importance. The low profile design of the plaza itself forms an attractive backdrop for the surrounding edifices.

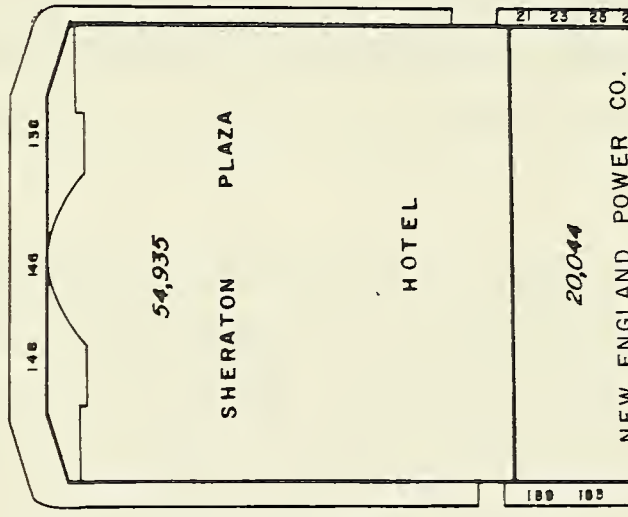
Present Use: The square itself is heavily used - particularly during the busy lunchtime period - as a passive facility, with sitting, informal games and picnicking and walking as the principle activities. Tourists often visit the square in order to view the surrounding architecture.

Proposed Improvements: Additional tree planting, and such details as additional benches, bollards, etc., as required.

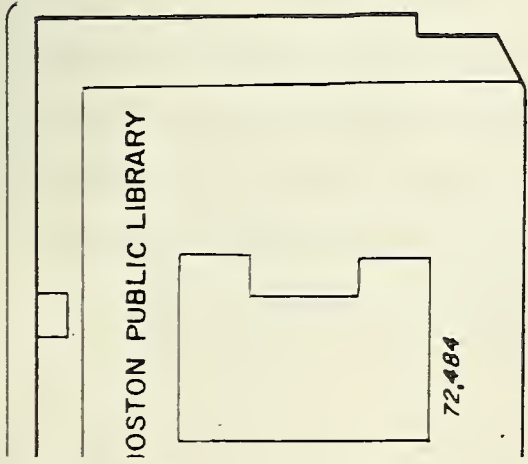


TRINITY

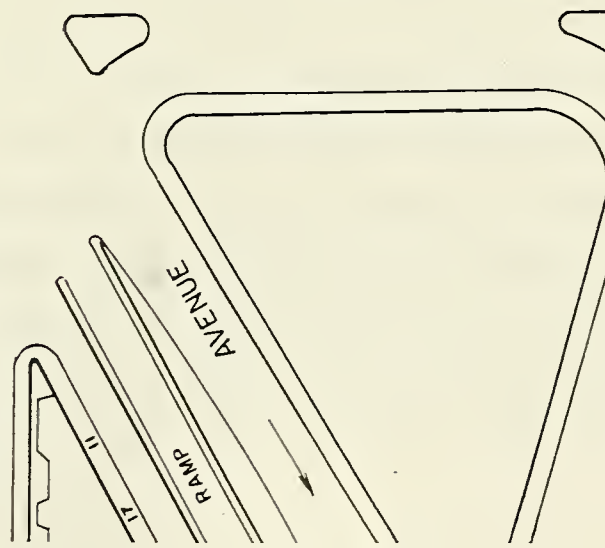
ST. JAMES



NEW ENGLAND POWER CO.



STREET



REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS
COPLEY SQUARE

South End Squares

Description: The dominant feature of the South End district are the many urban squares comprised of nineteenth century brick or brownstone rowhouses surrounding green parks. In some of the squares, buildings are set back to enclose oblong parks. In others, the rowhouses form a single continuous plane and the parks are narrower and more linear in shape. The size of the parks also varies. Most of the parks are enclosed by ornamental iron fencing and feature copper fountains - generally in deteriorated condition.

Union Park, built between 1857 and 1859 has the largest park area and is an example of the oblong, enclosed park. Concord and Rutland Squares, built in the 1860's, are more modest and are examples of the more linear, open-ended squares. Chester Square has been considerably altered by the twentieth century intrusion of an arterial street through the center of the oblong park.

Historic

Significance: The significance of the South End squares is in their relationship to city planning and urban development patterns of the nineteenth century. The land fill operation for the new South End began in 1848 with subsequent development occurring through the early 1870's. The plan for this fashionable district of "substantial dwellings" was based on the English precedent of rowhouses surrounding oblong parks. It is these parks or urban squares which are the focal points of the entire development. To insure unity, the rowhouses had to conform to building restrictions on height, material, setback and construction period; thus, a high degree of architectural homogeneity prevailed around each landscaped park. Although subtle variations exist within the houses and squares of the South End, they all reflect the "genteel" architectural era. The appreciation of the English park system in the urban planning of Boston

extends back to Charles Bulfinch's design for the Tontine Crescent. The South End squares represent the last vestiges of this concept in Boston, a fact recognized by the acceptance of the South End district to the National Register.

Present Use: The South End Squares (with the exception of Blackstone and Franklin Squares) function primarily as ornamental features, with little passive and no active recreational use.

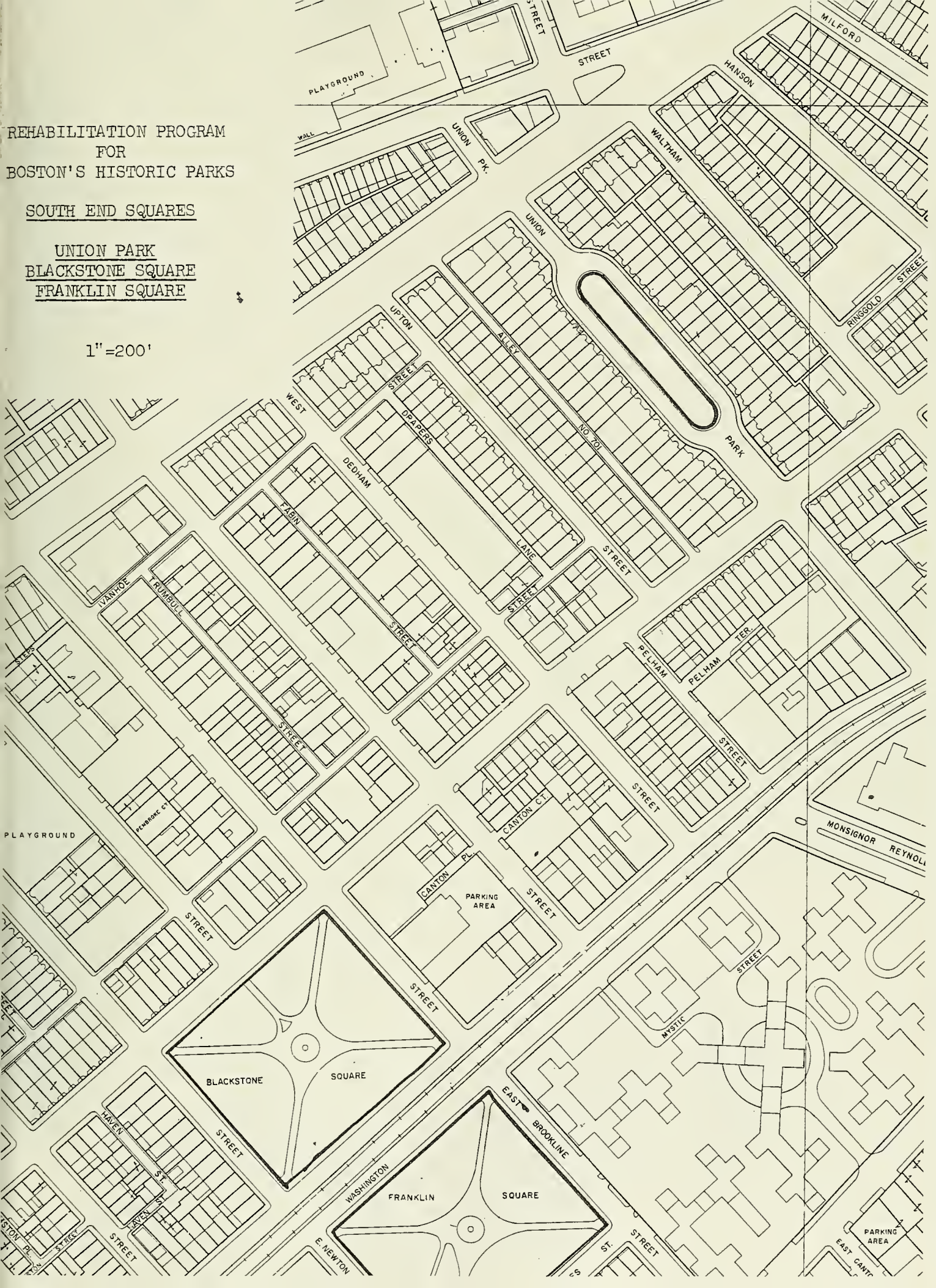
Proposed Improvements: Tree planting, grading, seeding, tree work, repair fountains and lighting.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

SOUTH END SQUARES

UNION PARK
BLACKSTONE SQUARE
FRANKLIN SQUARE

1"=200'

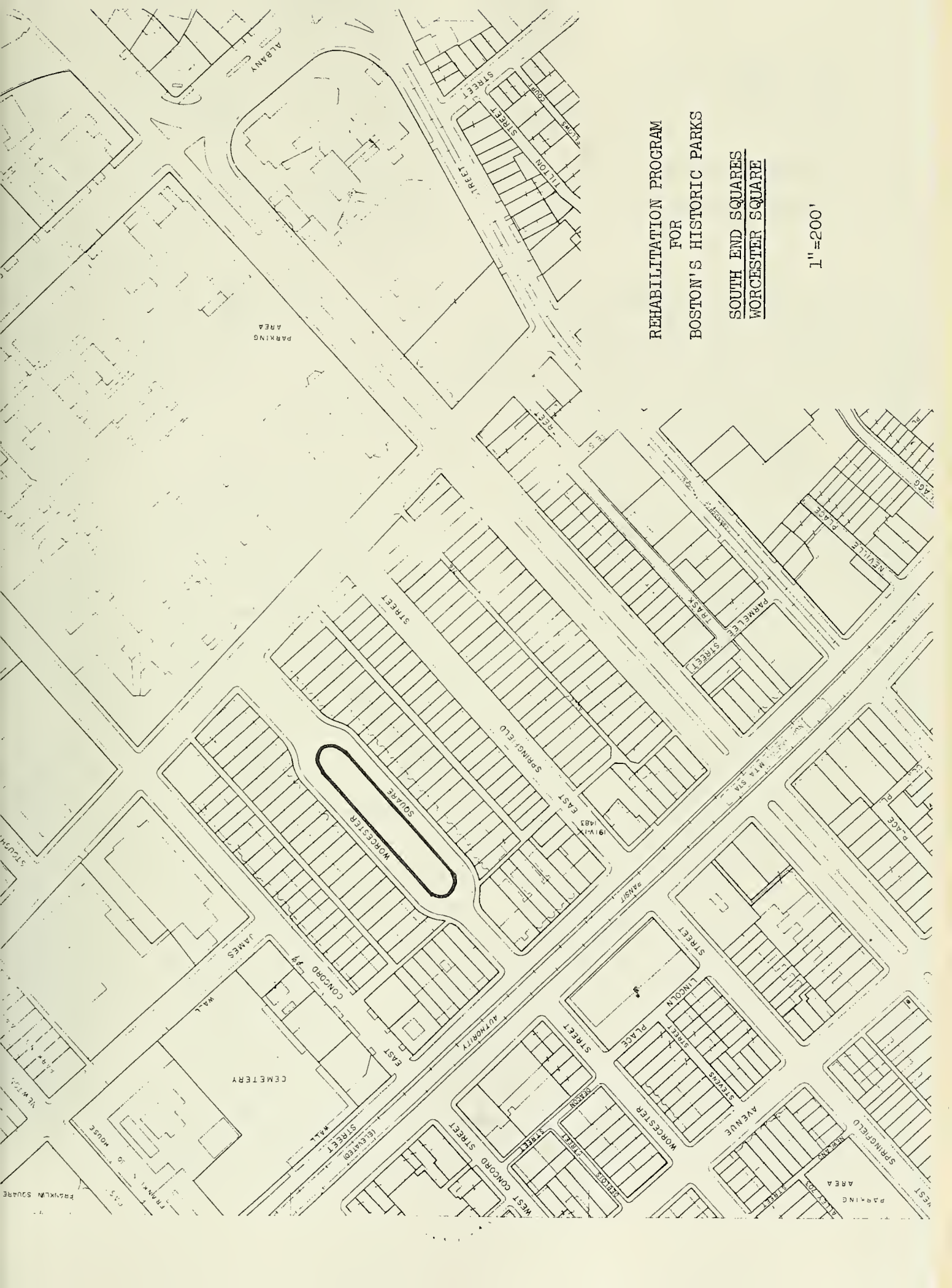




REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

- SOUTH END SQUARES
- RUTLAND SQUARE
- CONCORD SQUARE

1"=200'



REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

SOUTH END SQUARES
WORCESTER SQUARE

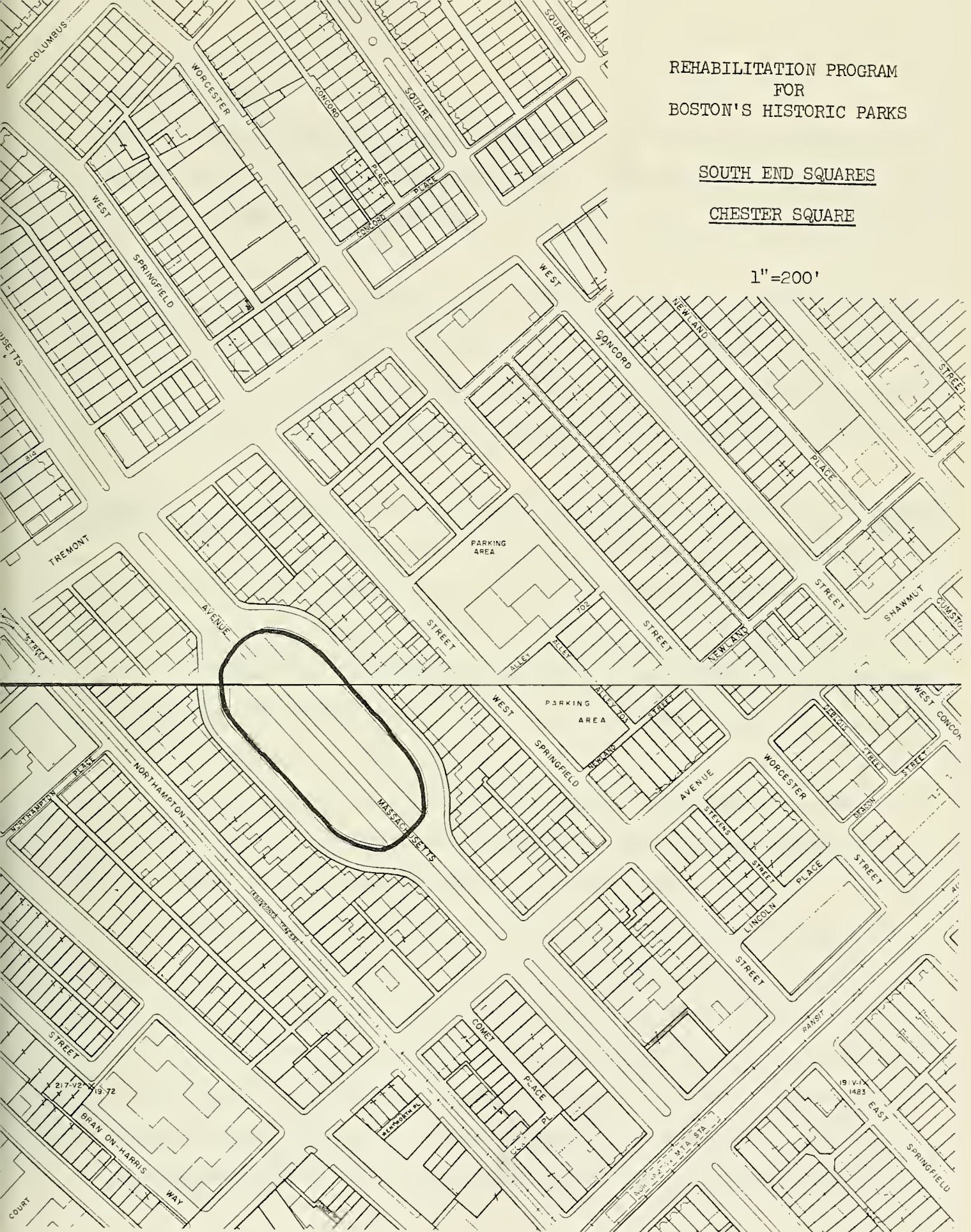
1" = 200'

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

SOUTH END SQUARES

CHESTER SQUARE

1"=200'



Olmsted Park System

Location: The Olmsted Park System constitutes a continuous band of major parks connected with various types of linear parkways. Elements of the system range from the Fenway section through Jamaica Plain to the Model Cities-Franklin section of the City.

Description: The system includes 4 major parks (the Fenway, Olmsted Park, the Arboretum, and Franklin Park) connected by linear parks, including the Riverway and Arborway. Most areas of the parks are wooded and naturally landscaped. Total acreage equals 641 acres (excluding the Arboretum, which is operated by Harvard University).

Historic Significance: The comprehensive park system which Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. planned for the City of Boston in the late 1870's is one of the nation's outstanding examples of a multi-use open space and the landscape architect's finest design project in New England. Olmsted's work on the system, which became known as the "Emerald Necklace around Boston," created a strong precedent for it included all the design and planning elements which later landscape architects have applied to regional planning on a large scale.

Olmsted's original plans for the park system had three purposes: to create needed municipal open space while solving an engineering problem; to link new annexed parts of the City with its historic center; to provide - as in his earlier designs for Central Park (1857-63) - a variety of forms of recreation. Olmsted established a hierarchy of uses for areas within the system, creating large and medium size parks for rural relaxation and picnicking, smaller landscaped areas with ponds for recreation and linear parkland for pleasure driving, riding and hiking. Though they were never carried out completely, sketches of circulation patterns suggest that Olmsted intended to separate traffic within the park system according to volume and type, again like his plans for Central Park.

Olmsted Park System - continued

The Back Bay Fens and the Fenway were the first portions of the park system to be planned. Into the 1870's the Fens were a tidal swamp which served as a repository for sewage and were subject to violent floods. The three man Boston Park Commission was created in 1875 primarily to find a solution to this problem. Following an unsuccessful competition for a design, Olmsted was asked to prepare a new plan for the Fens. Using swamp-like vegetation able to withstand periodic soakings with salt water, he created an informal park which was an unique feat of engineering skill and naturalistic landscaping.

Franklin Park, the terminus of the system, is one of Olmsted's masterpieces. This large rural park, included in the earliest schemes for Boston's park system, was financed in part by a bequest made to the City by Benjamin Franklin. Olmsted's plan for the Franklin Park area was completed and work begun in 1885. Though the surrounding area was still rural, Olmsted anticipated the growth of the City in this direction and designed the Park as a retreat for working people whose access to open space would be limited without it. In his concern for the social and humanitarian aspects of park design, Olmsted was influenced by the work of Joseph Paxton, whose "People's Park" at Birkenhead (England) he had first visited in 1850. Olmsted's plan for Franklin Park is more elaborate and highly articulated version of Paxton's Birkenhead design.

The Arnold Arboretum was begun as a tree farm for Harvard University in 1873. Charles Sprague Sargent, its first director, campaigned vigorously to make the Arboretum an aesthetic as well as scientific endeavor. Paths and major planting were designed by Frederic Law Olmsted. Today its collection includes more than 6,000 species of trees and shrubs.

Present Use: Various parts of the park system are subject to different types of use, including walking and hiking, nature study, gardening, sailing, picnicking, etc.

Olmsted Park System - continued

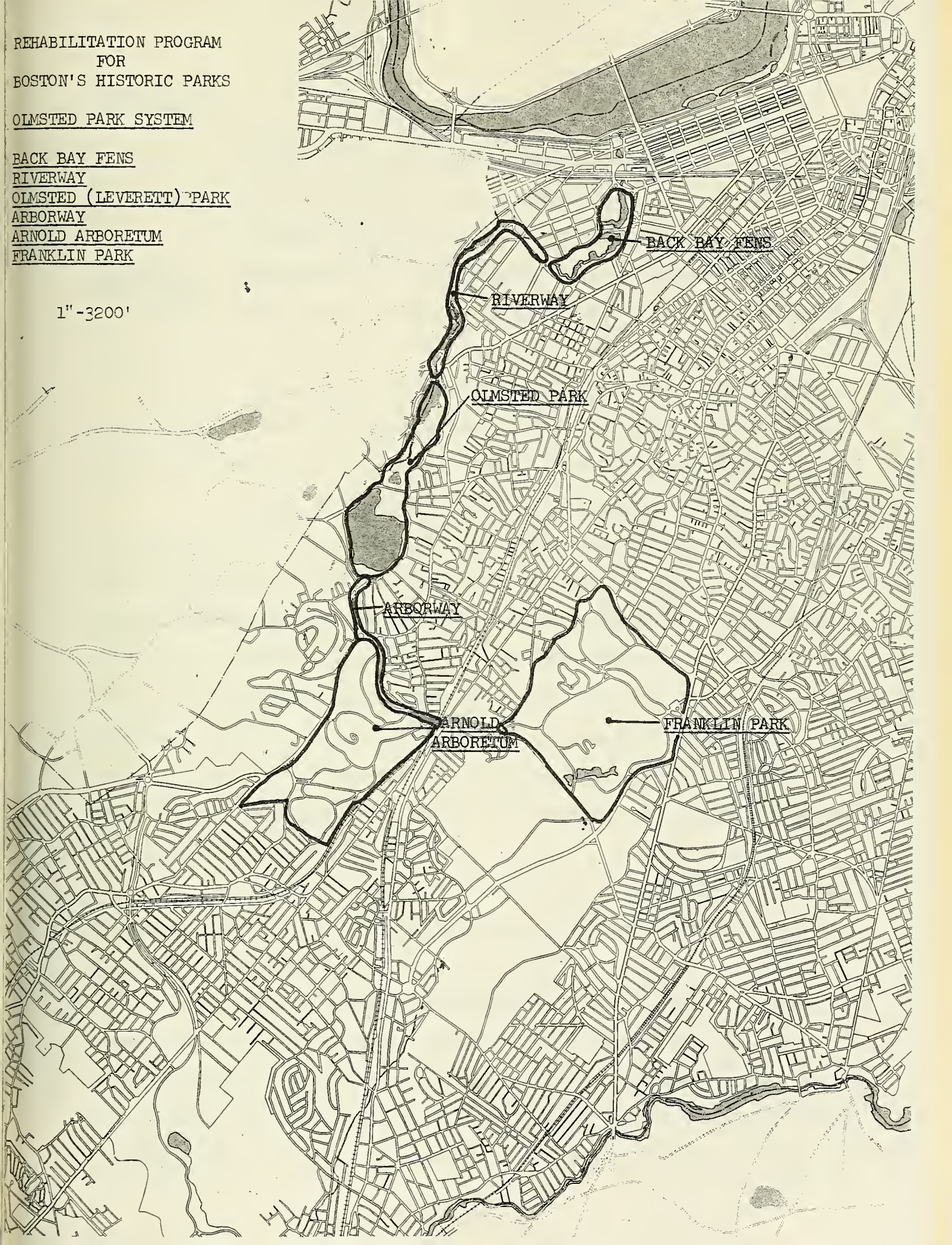
Proposed Necessary improvements include water pollution abatement and
Improvements: erosion control in the Fens, Riverway and Olmsted Park, tree
planting and tree work in all areas, reconstruction of walks, bridges and lawn
areas, new lighting, etc. Specific recommendations are included in the MAPC-BRA
Olmsted Park Inventory Report.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM

- BACK BAY FENS
- RIVERWAY
- OLMSTED (LEVERETT) PARK
- ARBORWAY
- ARNOLD ARBORETUM
- FRANKLIN PARK

1"=3200'



HIGHLAND PARK

Location: Fort Avenue, near Highland Street, Roxbury

Description: 3.7 acres open land situated on the crest of a rocky hill, dominated by lofty unused Victorian water standpipe.

Historical Significance: Highland Park's significance is of manifold importance in the topographical, military, architectural, and landscape history of Boston.

The strategic location of the highlands gave it topographical significance. Situated on the top of a hill, the site overlooked the only land route in and out of Boston (along the neck) during the eighteenth century.

Because of its location, Highland Park earned military significance as one of the first sites selected for fortification during the Revolutionary War. Built in the summer of 1775 from the designs of Henry Knox and Josiah Waters (Minuteman Generals), the fort was a quadrangular earthwork about twelve rods square with a bastion at each corner and embankments eight feet to fifteen feet high. Major-General Wm. Heath, a commanding officer in the Roxbury area, mentioned this fort as "being perhaps the first attempt at a regular fortification" (in the colonies). During the siege of Boston, the High Fort was a vital section of the encirclement which prevented the British from receiving supplies and reinforcements and eventually forced their evacuation.

Residents and mayors of Roxbury in the first half of the nineteenth century attempted to preserve High Fort as a Revolutionary landmark. The plans were futile, however, and the fort fell into disrepair.

The architectural prominence of the site was established when it became a part of Boston's Cochituate Water System. Between 1869 and 1870, a year after the annexation of Roxbury to Boston, the old fort was demolished to make way for the construction of a standpipe to provide fresh water for the Roxbury area. Designed by Messrs. Standish and Woodbury to enhance the site, this circular brick

Highland Park - continued

tower with its granite trimmings, gabled roofing, and decorative fenestration. remains a significant example fo Victorian Gothic architecture. Despite the rare qualities of this standpipe in 1880, its functional aspects became obsolete when the city abandoned the Cochituate Water System.

Highland Park had attracted over its first one hundred years a Revolutionary fort and a Victorian standpipe. Each was placed on the crest for its functional topographic advantages; however, the site outlived the usefulness of both architectural monuments. Having been transferred from the City's Water Department to the Park Department the structures and grounds had suffered. In 1895, the site received deserved attention. At that time appropriations were made to restore the well-known tower and its grounds. Under pressure from the Roxbury Military Historical Society (now the Roxbury Historical Society) the superintendent of the Common and Public Grounds commissioned Frederick Law Olmsted, master landscape architect, to prepare an extensive renovation. Olmsted's involvement extended through his firm until 1916.

The improvements carried out between 1895 and 1916 as a result of Olmsted's proposals included: reconstruction of the quadrangular shape of the fort; creations of walkways and seating arrangments to follow the puddingstone terrain; the planting of appropriate vegetation; construction of a retaining wall on Fort Avenue; and the addition of a battery of four revolutionary cannons and gun carriages. For the standpipe, appropriations including adding an iron balcony, an attendant's office, and bronze memorial plaques. Finally the edge of park was extended approximately 44,000 square feet to the northwest which gave a protective boundary from later neighborhood construction. After the restoration, the park was compared favorably with the Bunker Hill Monument both for historic significance and the pleasureable view of the City. As a result Highland Park once again emerged as an important landmark in the City - this time as significant landscape architecture.

Highland Park - continued

The park today still commands community interest and civic pride, although the problems of the surrounding neighborhoods are great. Development plans for the area recognize the importance of Highland Park as an open space area combining recreational value and visual and historic features linking the community to its past.

Present Use: The park is still actively used as a play area by residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

Proposed Improvements: Reconstruct walks, slopes; tree planting, control erosion on remains of fort and sod; carry out emergency repairs on standpipe.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

HIGHLAND PARK

1"=200'



EUSTIS (Eliot) BURYING GROUND

Location: Washington and Eustis Streets, Roxbury

Description: Approximately .5 acre small historic burying ground.

Historical

Significance: This burying ground was the first cemetery in Roxbury, established shortly after the town's incorporation in 1630, from the common land and remains one of Boston's oldest historic cemeteries.

The first tomb built in the ground was that of the Dudley family built before 1653. The oldest headstone is at the grave of a child of Samuel Danforth, which bears the date of 1653. The second tomb was that of John Pierpont, built before 1682, and the third, and most famous, tomb was the Parish or Eliot tomb, built in 1687, in which are the remains of John Eliot, Apostle to the Indians.

In the center of the burying gound are ten tombs; these tombs are the oldest in the cemetery. On the north border there are ten tombs, on the east border four, on the south border nine, and on the west border two, making a total of thirty-five tombs. They were all built below the surface of the ground with three large horizontal monuments over the graves.

In 1882 the bronze tablet was placed on the gate to commemorate the Roxbury Burial Ground. It reads: "Roxbury Burial Ground. Here were buried Governors Thomas Dudley 1653, Joseph Dudley 1720, Chief Justice Paul Dudley 1752, Col. William Dudley 1743, Ministers John Eliot, the Apostle to the Indians, 1690, Thomas Walter 1725, Nehemiah Walter 1750, Oliver Peabody 1752, Amos Adams 1775, Eliphalet Porter 1835, and Benjamin Tompson, Schoolmaster and Physician."

Interments were made in the burying ground up to 1846. Since that time few burials have been made in the tombs.

During the siege of Boston immediately after the Battle of Lexington the first defensive work constructed by the Americans was a redoubt

Eustis (Eliot) Burying Ground - continued

thrown up across the highway leading to Boston (Washington Street) where the road to Dorchester (Eustis Street) begins. Its front was nearly on the southerly edge (line) of this road (and the lane now Williams Street). The redoubt defended the road to Dorchester and the entrance to the town of Roxbury. It was called the "Burying Ground Redoubt" and subsequently was enlarged and strengthened.

Present Use: The burying ground is today occasionally used for walking and sitting.

Proposed Improvements: Repair fence and monuments; plant trees, grade, seed, fertilize lawns.

EUSTIS (ELIOT) BURYING GROUND

[illegible]

SHIRLEY-EUSTIS HOUSE GROUNDS

Location: Shirley Street, Roxbury

Description: Area consists of lawn areas surrounding Shirley-Eustis House; the house is surrounded by a residential neighborhood.

Historical Significance: The Shirley-Eustis House (Shirley Place) was among the most formal and imposing Georgian period houses built in New England. Its builder, William Shirley, was royal governor of Massachusetts from 1741 to 1756 and a colonial leader in the generation preceding the Revolutionary War. The original design featured a first and second floor raised on a high stone basement. An imposing double flight of stairs led to the main entrance.

After being used by American Forces as a barracks and hospital during the siege of Boston, it was purchased and remodeled by Dr. William Eustis in 1819. Eustis had been a surgeon in the Revolutionary War and was twice elected governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

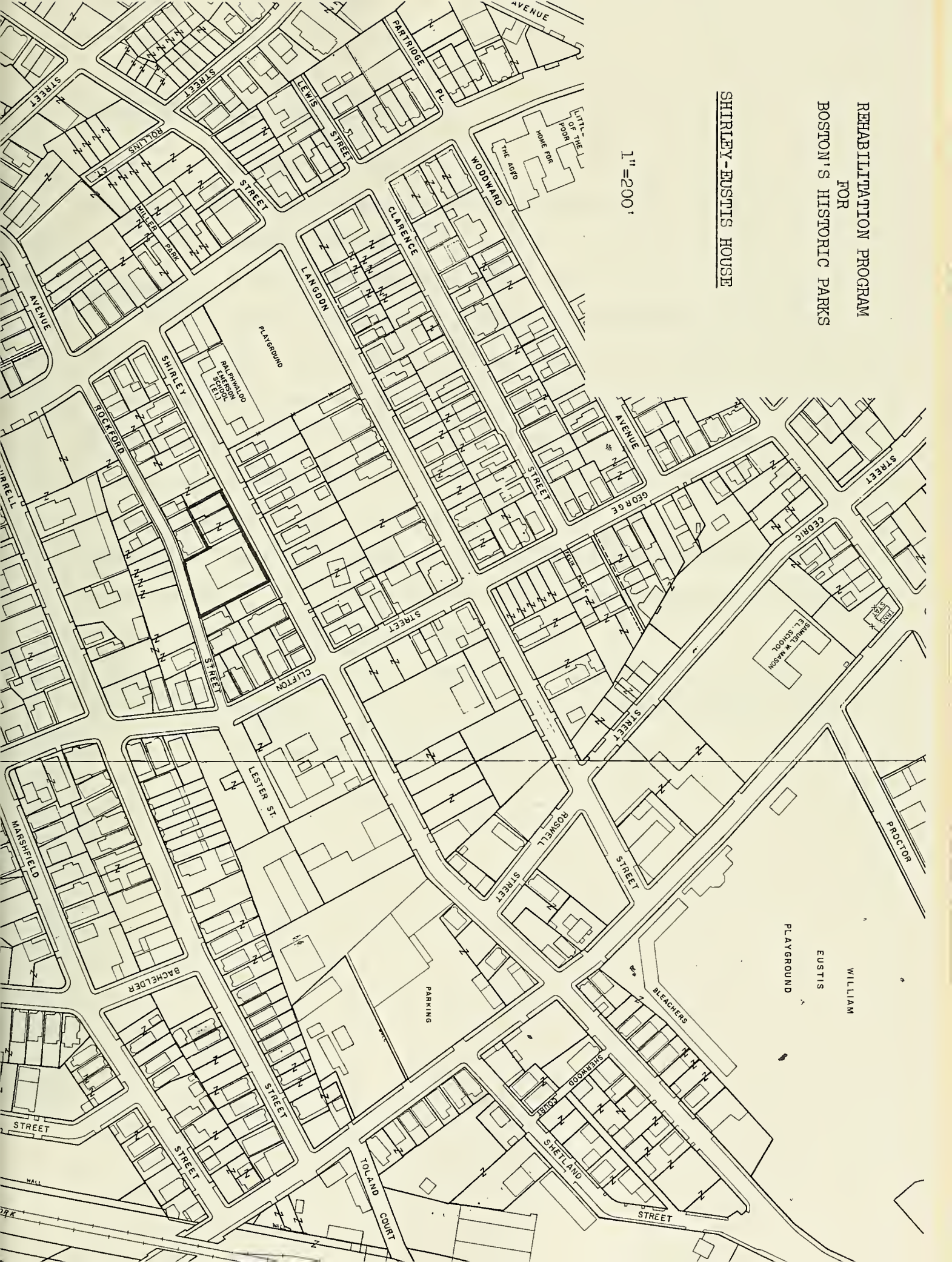
Present Use: The grounds are used as an informal sitting area by neighborhood residents, and form a potentially attractive setting for the house.

Proposed Improvements: Relandscape site to form proper and attractive setting for Shirley-Eustis House (including planting of shrubs and trees, construction of fencing), as per plans of Shirley-Eustis House Association and the BRA.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

SHIRLEY-EUSTIS HOUSE

1"=200'



DORCHESTER HEIGHTS (Thomas Park)

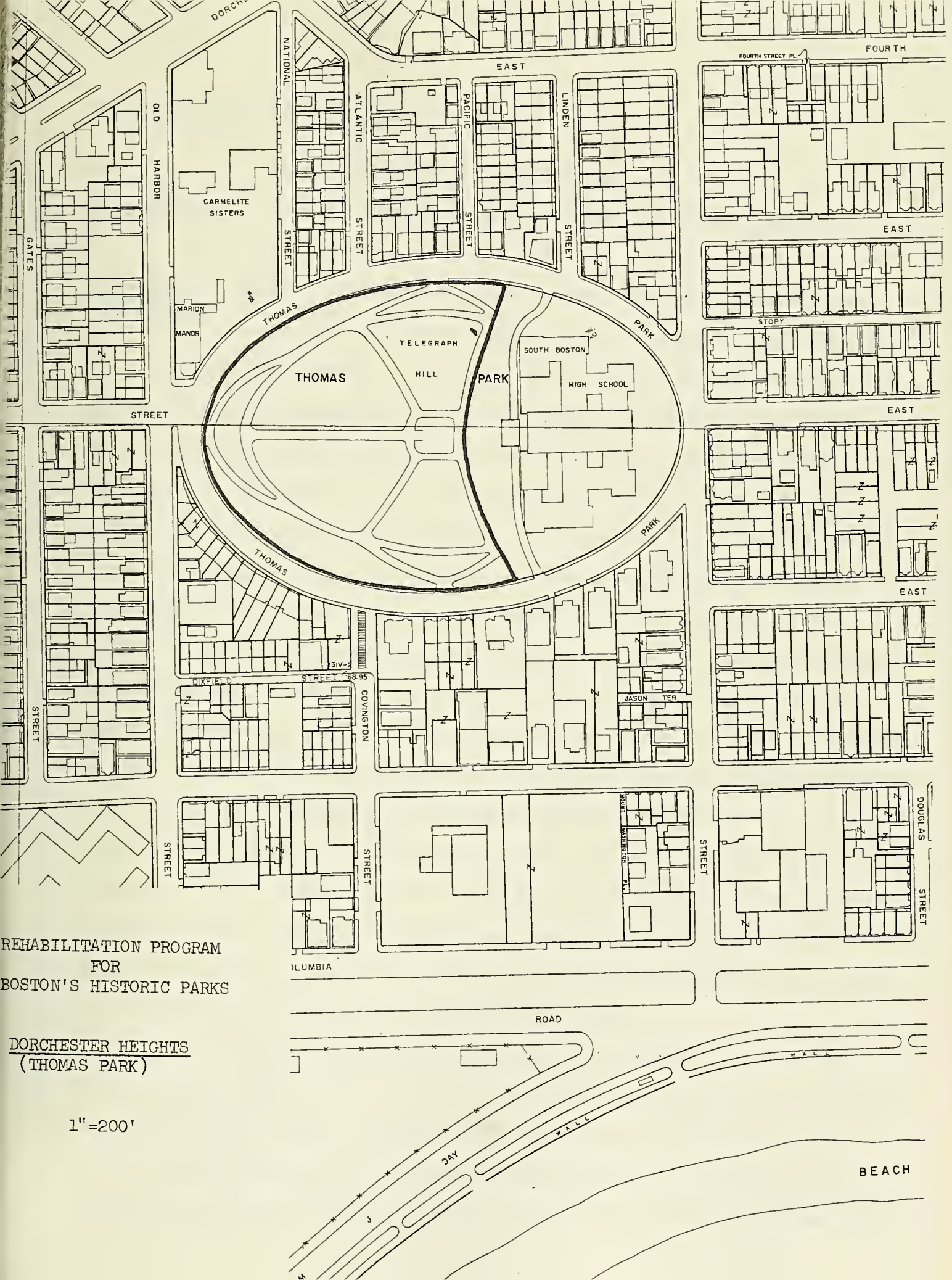
Location: Telegraph Hill, South Boston

Description: 5.4 acres, grassy plateau overlooking Boston, containing large concrete memorial, trees, paths.

Historical Significance: In 1776, the first American Army won its first victory on the heights of Dorchester. When General George Washington's fortification of the area made the British occupation of Boston untenable, the British troops, under the command of General William Howe, sailed out of Boston Harbor on March 17, 1776, never again to set foot on Massachusetts soil. The evacuation of Boston marked a significant change in the Patriot cause, from a defense of colonist's rights to a war for independence.'

Present Use: The park is presently used as a play and sitting area by neighborhood residents. It is also visited by tourists, and is noted for its scenic overlook of downtown Boston and the harbor islands.

Proposed Improvements: Plant and regrade eroded slopes, ornamental fence on eastern perimeter, tree work, tree planting, sandblast monument, repair steps and walks, repair lights.



REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

DORCHESTER HEIGHTS
(THOMAS PARK)

1"=200'

FORT INDEPENDENCE, CASTLE ISLAND

Location: William J. Day Boulevard, South Boston

Description: 29 acre peninsula dominated by a large 19th century granite fortification.

Historical Significance: Except for a somewhat earlier defense setup on Fort Hill in the southern end of Boston, Castle Island is the oldest fortified site in the original Massachusetts Bay Colony. Begun in 1634 and called "the Castle" by John Winthrop, it controlled the main ship channel to Boston's inner harbor. Fire destroyed the Fort in 1673, but it was soon rebuilt. Sir Edmund Andros, Royal Governor of the Province, was imprisoned here in 1689, during the first colonial rebellion against royal authority. In the early years of the eighteenth century, a completely new, bastioned fort of masonry was built at the express direction of King William, who feared an attack on the colonies by the French fleet. The new fort was named Fort William and, with over one hundred guns, was the most impressive fortification in British North America. Governor Shirley sought refuge at this third fort during the impressment riots of 1747. The stamps of the hated Stamp Acts were stored here, and the ill-received revenue commissioners appointed under the Townsend Acts were forced to retreat to the Fort in 1767. At Samuel Adams' insistence, the British troops were quartered here after the Boston Massacre of 1770. Fort William was partially destroyed by General Howe during his evacuation of Boston in March, 1776, but was immediately repaired by colonial forces under the direction of Lt. Col. Paul Revere and put under the command of the leader of the Massachusetts Militia, Major General John Hancock.

In 1798, Massachusetts ceded the island fortress to the United States, possibly because of the country's difficulties with France, and President John Adams renamed it Fort Independence. A new fort was built in the early part of the nineteenth century from a design by John Foncin, the French engineer who designed and built Fort McHenry. This fort, the fourth on the site, was garrisoned

Fort Independence, Castle Island - continued

during the War of 1812 but fell into serious disrepair soon after. Reconstruction began in 1836 and was substantially completed by 1851 when the Fort was garrisoned once again. During the Civil War, several volunteer units kept watch at the Fort for Confederate ships. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. and Charles Francis Adams are only two of the Massachusetts notables who walked the parapets of Fort Independence before leaving for service with the Union Army. Though Fort Independence saw some activity during World War I and II, it was not fully garrisoned after the Spanish American War. Its 328 year military history came to an end in 1962, when the Federal government ceded the area of Fort Independence back to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for use as an historic monument.

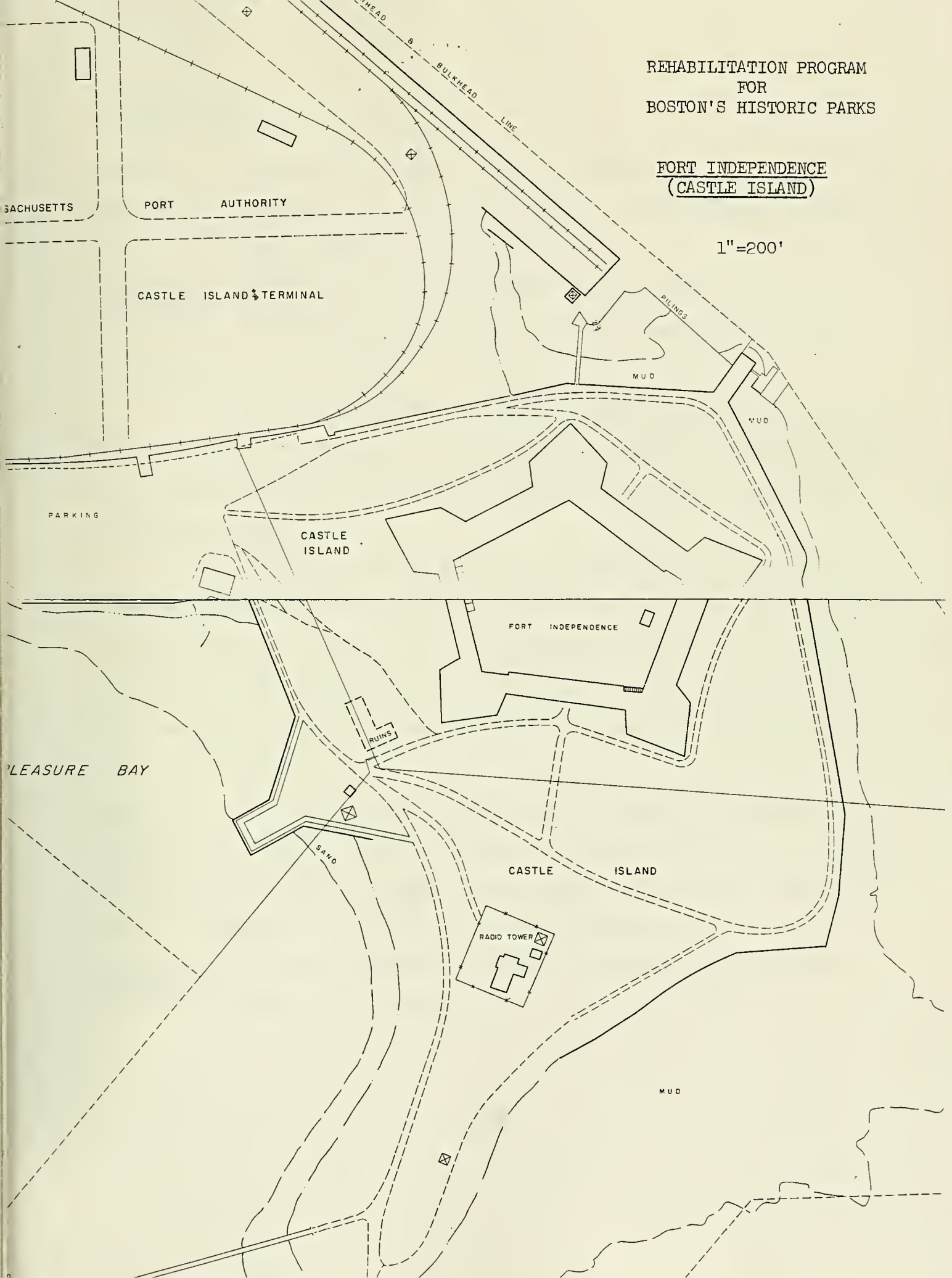
Present Use: Castle Island is currently heavily used for walking, viewing the harbor, fishing, swimming (Pleasure Bay) and picnicking.

Proposed To be determined by MDC.
Improvements:

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

FORT INDEPENDENCE
(CASTLE ISLAND)

1"=200'



RICHARDSON PARK

Location: Columbia Rd. at Edward Everett Sq., Dorchester

Description: 1.06 acres, mostly lawn area, at the center of which is located the historic Blaker House.

Historical Significance: Richardson Park was established in the late 19th century as a site for the historic Blake House, which was moved to this site from a nearby location in 1895.

Built by James Blake in 1648, the Blake House was the farm house for a large homestead set apart from the early North Dorchester settlement early in the colony's history. James Blake is thought to have been a town clerk sometime after 1656.

The house, situated originally at what later was Massachusetts Avenue and Cottage Street, was acquired by the City of Boston in 1895, and moved to its present site. At that time, The Dorchester Historical Society gained ownership and restored the colonial structure to its original condition. The house remains the second oldest extant structure in the City, and among the oldest in the country.

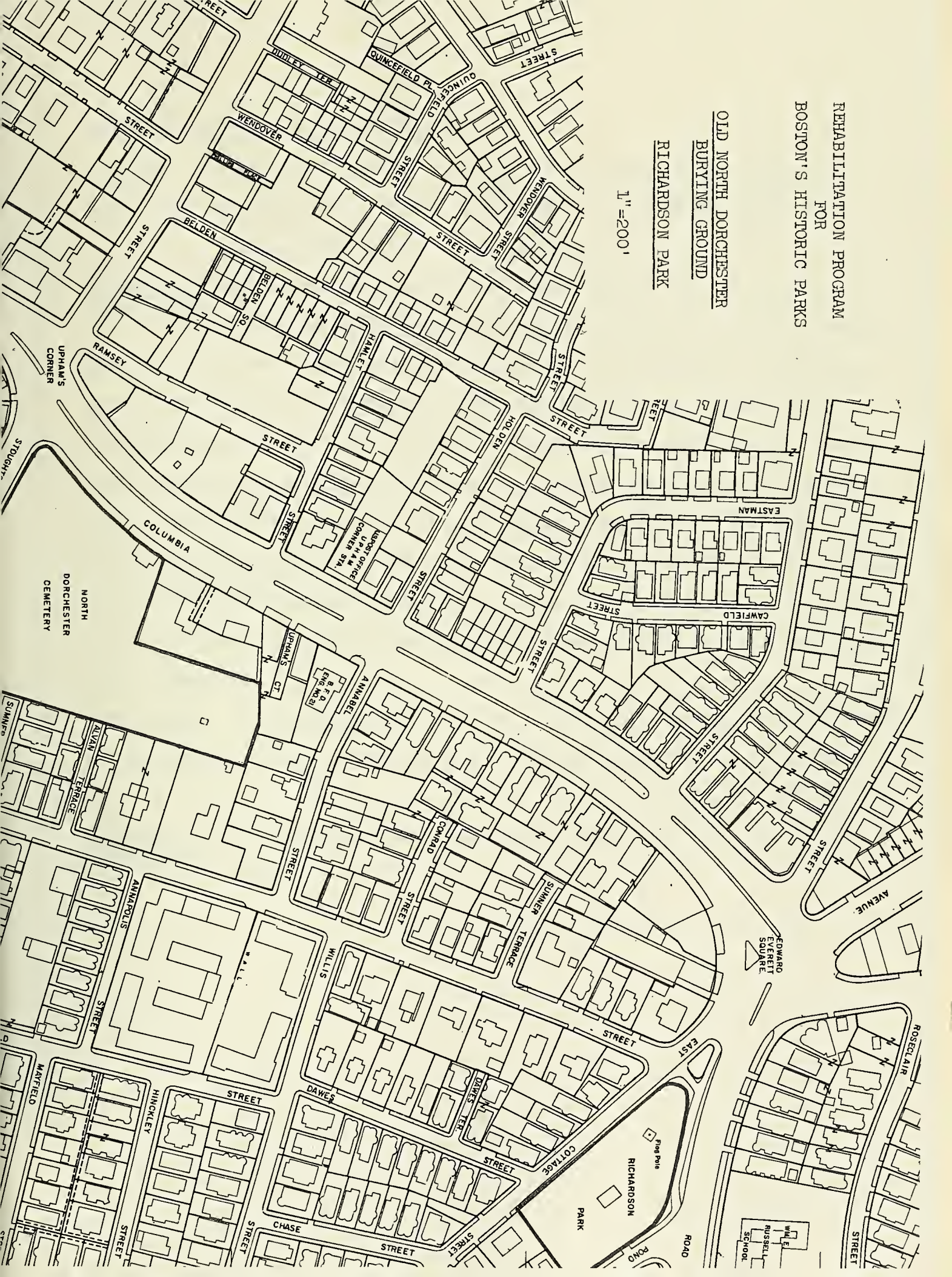
Present Use: Laid out as a lawn area with the Blake House at its center, Richardson Park, the park is presently used as a sitting area and as an informal play area by neighborhood residents. The northeastern corner of the property is used as a parking area -- a use that should be eliminated.

Proposed Improvements New walks, benches, tree planting, ornamental fencing, grading, seeding, fertilizing, etc.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

OLD NORTH DORCHESTER
BURYING GROUND
RICHARDSON PARK

1"=200'



OLD NORTH DORCHESTER BURYING GROUND

Location: 2.3 acres, Columbia Rd. at Stoughton St., Uphams Corner, Dorchester.

Description: An historical cemetery, surrounded by a tall masonry wall in the center of the Uphams Corner retail area.

Historical Significance: Established in 1634, the Old North Dorchester Burying Ground at Uphams Corner will continue to be a strong link between Dorchester's past and its future. In the nineteenth century it was described by these words: "Here sleep the sturdy Puritans who cleared the land and made it flower, who established and developed the institutions of which we are justly proud." Such proud thoughts were solicited by the number of prominent Boston citizens buried there including Richard Mather, William Stoughton, Samuel Pierce, and John Foster, the first printer in Boston. Because the cemetery dates from 1634, the forefathers of the prominent Revolutionary Dorchester citizens, Clap, Blake, Bird and Pierce, were buried here. In a single lot are forty unknown soldiers who died during the siege of Boston.

Present Use: The cemetery is currently not heavily used, however, local residents and shoppers use it for sitting and as a quiet respite from the nearby business activity.

Proposed Improvements: Tree planting, repair walks, seed and fertilize lawn areas, tree work.

DORCHESTER COMMON (Donovan Park)

Location: Church Street, at Adams and Bowdoin Streets, Meeting House Hill,
Dorchester.

Description: 1.3 acre lawn area, with some large trees, walks, benches, monument.

Historical Significance: The Dorchester Common at Meeting House Hill has been a part of the Dorchester community life since its beginning. Pre-revolutionary Dorchester was settled just north of the hill, with the land south of the Common used for agriculture. During the Revolution, the Common and what is today known as Eaton Square, adjoining the Common on the west, were mustering grounds for the Dorchester patriots. It is said that it was on the Commons -- in front of Eaton's Tavern, to be exact -- where the ox teams assembled on the eve of the fortification of Dorchester Heights in 1776.

In the nineteenth century, the Commons continued to be the highlight of community life. On the east side were built the Lyceum Hall, the Cotton Mather School and the First Parish Church on the Common itself is located a monument honoring the Civil War dead of Dorchester. Immediately west of the Common (separated from it by Adams St.) is located Eaton Square (now Coppens Sq.), which contains an ornate 19th century fountain. This tiny (.30 acre) square is surrounded by an ornamental iron fence.

Present Use: The Dorchester Common is currently used as a sitting area and formal play area by neighborhood residents.

Proposed Improvements: New benches, tree planting, grading, seeding, tree work, repair of walks.

DORCHESTER COMMON
(Donovan Park)

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS

DORCHESTER COMMON
(Donovan Park)

1"=200'

This is a black and white street map of the Dorchester Common area in Boston. The map shows a grid-like street pattern with various streets labeled, including Coleman St., Bowdoin St., Potosi St., Mt. Ida St., Iselin St., Winter St., East St., Wilkinson St., Glover St., Fruean St., High St., Navillus Ter., Hancock St., DeWolf St., and others. Key landmarks include St. Peter's Church, St. Peter's Parochial School, Roman Memorial Bldg., Adams Square, Dorchester Square, First Parish Church, Mather School, Edward Southworth Sch., American Legion Post 60, and several parks like Donovan Park and Francis S. House Sq. The map also shows building footprints, parking areas, and other urban features.

FORT WARREN (MDC)

Location: Georges Island, Boston Harbor

Description: 28 acre island dominated by Fort Warren, a large 19th century granite fortification.

Historical Significance: The earliest know date of habitation for Georges Island, the site of Fort Warren; is 1628. Two centuries later, in 1825, the United States acquired it from the City of Boston, and in 1826 began developing the island. When completed in about 1863, Fort Warren became the principal fortification in Boston Harbor and remained so until its final abandonment following World War II.

Fort Warren is considered the chief engineering work of Sylvanus Thayer (1785-1872) -- sometimes known as the "Father of the Military Academy" -- who from 1833 to 1863 was in charge of the construction of the fortifications at the entrance of Boston Harbor and of the improvement of harbors on the New England coast. Authority on American costal fortifications, Dr. Raymond Lewis, regards Fort Warren as one of the finest forts built as a part of "The Third System of Defense" completed in this country between 1816 and 1865.

Fort Warren is generally recognized as the most significant Civil War site in New England, because of its use as a prison for important Confederate officers and civilian sympathizers. Among the prisoners kept in the casement rooms of the fort were James Mason and John Slidell. The Confederate commissioners were on their way to England in November, 1861, when they were seized from the Treat by Captain Charles Wilkes of the U.S.S. San Jacinto. News of the seizure provoked war fever in Britain but the crisis passed when Secretary of War Seward ordered the release of the envoys after a month at Fort Warren. Other notables confined in the fortress were Southern generals Simon Buckner (captured at Fort Donelson) and Richard Ewell, and, immediately after the war, Vice President of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens.

Fort Warren (MDC) - continued

The United States deeded Fort Warren to the Metropolitan District Commission of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1958.

Present Use: Served by ferry service from the downtown waterfront, the fort is annually visited by 70,000 persons. Principal activities are sightseeing, walking, picnicking, and viewing the harbor and ocean.

Proposed To be determined by MDC.
Improvements:

REHABILITATION PROGRAM
FOR
BOSTON'S HISTORIC PARKS
FORT WARREN (GEORGE'S ISLAND)
1"=200'



